





## THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE INQUIRY

# Condon must admit institutional racism

## Chief told his force suffers from a 'corrosive disease'

By ADAM SHERWIN

## THE REPORT

THE Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Paul Condon, must unequivocally acknowledge that "institutional racism" exists within the force or reconsider his position, concludes Sir William Macpherson of Cluny's leaked report into the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

The report criticises Sir Paul's performance and rejects his assertion that there is no culture of racism within the force. The report says that racism within the Metropolitan Police is "pernicious" and a "corrosive disease".

Sir William condemns the Metropolitan Police for its failure to investigate the murder properly. That failure, he says, was due to an inability to provide a "professional service" to ethnic minorities.

The inquiry chairman makes 70 recommendations designed to transform relations between the black community and the police and warns senior officers who cannot accept those conclusions that their jobs will become "extremely difficult".

The report says: "There must be an unequivocal acceptance of the problem of institutional racism and its nature before it can be addressed as it needs to be in full partnership with minority ethnic communities... Any chief police officer who feels unable to respond will find it extremely difficult to work in harmony and co-operate with the community in the way that policing by consent demands."

The report contrasts the view of Sir Paul, who has consistently rejected the accusation of institutional racism, with other senior officers who have accepted that racism is ingrained in the police service.

Sir William makes direct criticism of Sir Paul's handling of the Lawrence investigation. There was a "lack of rigour... by the Commissioner himself" in the reception of an earlier internal inquiry into the case which gave the police investigations a clean bill of health.

Sir William writes of internal review: "The cross-examination was robust and searching but the problems were caused by the failure of

police and answers to questions rather than the nature of the questions. It is of central importance that the Commissioner and his officers should recognise and accept this fact."

Senior officers, including the Commissioner, should not have needed the advantage of hindsight to realise something was wrong. The report also rejects criticisms levelled by Sir Paul at the Lawrence inquiry itself as neither "appropriate and justified".

Sir William provides his definition of "institutional racism". There was a "collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture and ethnic origin", the report says.

"It can be seen or detected in processes, attitudes and behaviour which amounts to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping which disadvantages minority ethnic people."

The importance of race relations was constantly "underplayed or ignored" by police officers investigating the murder. The report says that for a long time they refused to acknowledge the attack had been racially motivated - while at the same time mislaying crucial evidence.

One senior officer appeared to have lied after the internal review of the murder investigation which exonerated the Met came under scrutiny. The investigating officer, Chief Superintendent Roderick Barker, later said he had told his superior, Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Osland, that he had misgivings about the case - a claim disputed by Mr Osland. Sir William's view in the report is that one senior officer was "palpably wrong and cannot be telling the truth".

The report said: "There was a lack of rigour in the reception of the review document first and foremost by Mr Osland but also by those above him including the Commissioner himself... Without the need for hindsight the review should have generated questions from the senior officers



Protesters calling for the dismissal of Sir Paul Condon after the inquiry into the police handling of the Lawrence case

which may have uncovered the difficulties which have substantially been revealed in this investigation."

The report does praise some officers for their performance and does not brand all officers as racist. The racism that does exist is however, "pernicious".

Radical changes to the legal and criminal justice system are proposed after a detailed analysis of the reasons for the collapse of the case against the five white youths accused. Sir William wants to see "the Court of Appeal being given power to permit prosecutions after an earlier acquittal" when fresh and important evidence is produced.

Three of the men suspected of murdering Stephen Lawrence have been acquitted and

cannot be tried again for murder. The change, likely to be highly controversial, is expected to permit only one re-trial of someone who has been acquitted.

Other recommended legal changes would make it a crime to use racist language and possess an offensive weapon even in private - as seen in a police video of the Lawrence suspects.

The report calls for victims' families to be given advance disclosure of evidence at inquests, saying that "the paucity of information" offered to the Lawrence family reflected a lack of "open and meaningful communication".

One of the most significant recommendations is for a tougher Race Relations Act

covering the police and possibly the armed forces and immigration service. It would mean that police officers would lose their exemption from the provisions of the 1968 and 1976 Race Relations Acts while performing their duties. Jack Straw is expected to signal his support for such a measure during his Commons statement on Wednesday.

The current rules mean that cases such as that of the black motorist Carl Joseph, who alleged last month that police in Birmingham discriminated against him by stopping his car 34 times, have to be brought under common law. These cases are difficult to pursue and if successful, result in small damages. The Macpherson proposals could see the

courts make awards for loss of employment and awarding aggravated damages of more than £500,000.

Such a change in the law would give the Commission for Racial Equality statutory powers to launch investigations into the police. An inquiry into an investigation such as the Stephen Lawrence case would have the power to seize documents and call witnesses.

Other measures likely to be adopted from the report include amendments to the National Curriculum to emphasise the value of cultural diversity.

Many of the recommendations are likely to be included in a government package of police reforms later this year.

## When secrecy has no point

By MICHAEL HARVEY

THE decision to vary the injunction order follows previous cases where once information is readily available to a large proportion of the population, it is absurd to continue to prevent publication.

As Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson explained in a judgment in the High Court in the early days of the *Spycatcher* saga in 1997: "In the contemporary world of electronics and jumbo jets, news anywhere is news everywhere." In other words, once a secret is out, an injunction can serve no sensible purpose.

The most relevant precedent was in 1992 when the story of Paddy Ashdown and his mistress. A note giving details of the relationship was in a safe at the offices of his solicitors, which were burgled.

Mr Ashdown obtained an injunction preventing the details being printed in England, but newspapers in Scotland went ahead. Mr Ashdown decided that with the details out in the open, the English injunction was rendered useless and in effect lifted it by making a public statement about the affair.

Jack Straw has personal experience of this type of situation. In January last year, Mr Justice Toulson lifted an injunction preventing the identification of Mr Straw's son William, who was accused of selling cannabis.

The judge concluded it would be pointless to continue the ban after newspapers in Scotland, Ireland and France had identified the 17-year-old and the information was readily available on the Internet.

The injunction had been granted to protect William Straw's identity on the grounds he was "concerned in proceedings". Scottish newspapers had gone ahead with publication as Scotland has a separate legal system which protects only children under 16 from being identified in such circumstances.

## DAMAGE LIMITATION

SCOTLAND YARD launched its damage limitation operation against the fallout from the Stephen Lawrence report six months ago, almost as soon as Sir William Macpherson of Cluny ended hearings into the flawed murder investigation (Stewart Tendler writes).

Throughout the inquiry, a team of officers sat in the hearings taking notes. Their briefings and notes from press officers also attending the inquiry helped to shape the spin initiative. At the Yard Dick Fodorio, head of the Directorate of Public Affairs, formed a four-man unit to coordinate the Yard's strategy.

The Yard would apologise but at the same time point out flaws in the inquiry and show that positive action was already under way.

Sir Paul Condon apologised through one of his assistant commissioners to the Lawrences during the hearings. When Sir Paul, whose personal credentials on racism have always been above reproach, later appeared at the inquiry he again offered an apology.

Since the autumn the Yard has been highlighting its plans for change. There has been a succession of announcements about tackling race crime and curbing racism in the London force, and renewing investigations into the deaths of Michael Menson and Ricky Reed, both young men from ethnic minority backgrounds.

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Next in line for top job? John Stevens, Denis O'Connor, Ian Blair and Ted Crewe

## Eight names are on list of candidates for Met job

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

JOHN STEVENS, the 56-year-old Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, would succeed Sir Paul Condon as the head of Scotland Yard if he resigned this week.

A highly experienced detective who rejoined the Yard last year after a distinguished police career. Mr Stevens could move into the £130,000 a year job in the short term at least. Liked by Jack Straw and Tony Blair, he might then be offered a four-year contract.

In the meantime, the Home Office could choose a younger

senior officer - a "moderniser" - to groom as the number two. One candidate might be Denis O'Connor, 48, presently the Assistant Commissioner responsible for race policy.

Another possible name could be that of Ian Blair, the 45-year-old Chief Constable of Surrey, who put down his marker with a controversial speech last week calling for the modernisation of the police service.

Other reformers might include David Phillips, 53, Chief Constable of Kent, or Tony Burden, 48, head of South Wales police.

But the Home Office could also turn to Ted Crewe, now

54, who is Chief Constable of the West Midlands and has won praise for turning round the fortunes of an ailing force.

There are also arguments in the Home Office for one of the grandees of the police service to hold the position. Bill Taylor, a former Yard officer, Commissioner of the City of London force and an inspector of constabulary, has moved to Scotland as the Scottish inspector of constabulary. Still in his early 50s he could get the call back to London.

John Evans, 55, is Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall and could also be considered a safe pair of hands to hold the Metropolitan Police together.

## Editors condemn Straw

EDITORS and media lawyers denounced the "pyjama justice" that allowed the Government to stop the presses.

Andrew Neil, Editor of *The Sunday Times* during the *Spycatcher* affair, said the injunction was "a complete attack on the freedom of the press".

Piers Morgan, Editor of *The Mirror*, said: "This is an outrageous act of utter hypocrisy. They have leaked every report and policy initiative when it suits them. Yet now they have the gall to instruct a newspaper for doing the same thing."

Geoffrey Robertson, QC and media lawyer, said: "Saturday night's decision puts the Government in clear breach of the freedom of expression guarantees in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights."

## Minister caves in

Continued from page 1  
MP for Nottingham South, said the injunction had been a "farce". Bob Marshall-Andrews, Labour MP for Medway, said the Government was at fault for failing to place the report before Parliament quickly enough.

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, said Mr Straw's actions were "understandable", but added that "the partial lifting of the injunction reflects the reality that this information is now public".

Ros Howells, a close friend of the Lawrence family, said she had spoken to them and they were shocked by the leak. She said: "The Lawrences expected to be among the first people to be told what was in the report before it hit the headlines."

"It is inconsiderate for it to come out in this way. Who knows what the full report

says and how much of *The Sunday Telegraph* story is correct?"

Last night Scotland Yard said it would make no comment until the inquiry report is officially published.

It said no copies of the report have been seen either by Sir Paul or any of his senior officers.

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## THE STEPHEN LAWRENCE INQUIRY

# How Straw's decision on Lawrence leak came unstuck

Concerted media reaction forced a legal retraction, report James Landale and Stewart Tandler

JACK STRAW was still lamenting the 4-1 defeat of Blackburn Rovers by Sheffield Wednesday when his mobile phone rang as he travelled back to London early on Saturday evening.

By the time he had finished the conversation, the Home Secretary was even more depressed.

Officials at the Home Office had just informed him that *The Sunday Telegraph* was publishing extracts of the report into the killing of Stephen Lawrence.

Rumours had been circulating all day that a Sunday newspaper had obtained part of the report, which will be published in full on Wednesday.

About 6.30pm a media organisation, understood to be the BBC, called the Home Office to ask if it was preparing any reaction to the *Telegraph* report. Officials called Matthew D'Ancona, the paper's deputy editor, just after 7pm and asked what was being published.

It is understood that the Home Office was not given precise details — certainly not a text — about what the *Telegraph* was writing. Mr D'Ancona, who was in charge during the absence of the editor, Dominic Lawson, was at that point not given any indication that an injunction might be sought.

Mr Straw was immediately contacted by officials. Despite the lack of detail, he decided within a matter of minutes that an injunction should be sought from a judge. "I have to take many decisions on the basis of less than full information and at very short notice," Mr Straw told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* yesterday. "This was one of those."

He added: "When I heard of the fact that *The Sunday Telegraph* were running what I understood to be a partial and selective account of this report, I took the view that, first of all,



Straw: depressed after call on mobile phone

that was profoundly unfair to the family and the police officers involved and very unfair to Parliament as well."

Although it was Mr Straw's decision, a Downing Street spokesman said that "No 10 was informed as the process was going on".

Mr Straw authorised officials to seek an injunction through Roland Phillips, the Treasury Solicitor, who technically represents the Government in these matters.

Mr Phillips called *The Sunday Telegraph* about 7.30pm to tell the paper that he was seeking an injunction. Journalists at the paper were amazed. "There was a complete sense of astonishment and bewilderment," a reporter said.

About 8pm, Julia Braybrook, the newspaper's in-house lawyer, had a brief telephone conversation with Mr Justice Rix, the duty judge who had been contacted by Mr Phillips at his home in St John's Wood, North London. The conversation lasted a matter of minutes and Mrs Braybrook had little time to make a substantial case against the gag. The newspaper had no time to instruct a barrister.

Mr Justice Rix issued the injunction about half an hour later. This was communicated to Mr D'Ancona at 9.10pm and he immediately stopped the

presses. "The first editions were rolling off the press by the time the judge got to talk to our lawyers," he said yesterday.

"So we have ended up with the preposterous situation where readers in Scotland and in other parts of the country have our full report and those in other parts of the country have nothing apart from the fact that we had to pull it."

Some 290,000 copies of the first edition carried extracts from the report. They were available at newsagents across Scotland and Ireland, most of South Wales and the further reaches of the West Country.

Delivery quirks meant that readers in Coventry could study the report's conclusions while those in Birmingham could not. First editions were also available on the streets of London and at its mainline stations from early Saturday evening.

Other media organisations, unaware of that any injunction had been granted, continued to put out the story. ITN broadcast the story in its 8.40pm bulletin. The Press Association, the national agency, was still running the story at 9.58pm before putting out a notice at 10.11pm about the injunction.

The reaction, when it came, was united against the Government. Ministers woke up yesterday morning to hear expressions of growing puzzlement and anger at what appeared to be a form of censorship. Suspicion grew that the injunction was designed not to protect the Lawrences or any police officers but to protect the Government's media strategy for releasing the report.

Ministers are understood to be divided over whether Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, should be forced to resign because of the report's conclusions. Paul Boateng, the police minister, was reported by *The Telegraph* as believing that



Doreen Lawrence before a picture of her murdered son. Friends said she was unhappy at publication of the report

Sir Paul should go. How the report is presented will have a huge impact on his future.

Tom Baldwin, the *Sunday Telegraph's* political editor, said: "It seems increasingly clear that the Government is now a rival news organisation which, unlike others, seeks to protect its exclusives by resorting to court action."

In the face of concerted lobbying by lawyers representing many national newspapers, including *The Times*, the Government backed down. Mr Justice Rix, attending a wedding

reception at the Dorchester, agreed that the gag should be amended to allow publication of those parts of the report that were already in the public domain.

Mr Straw's setback marks the first real black mark in his ministerial copybook. Unlike many other Cabinet Ministers, the Home Secretary is known as a safe pair of hands who can handle anything that Tony Blair, the media or fate can throw at him.

The straightforward way in which he dealt with his son

William's involvement in drugs earned him respect rather than opprobrium.

His steady containment of the political aspects surrounding the future of General Pinochet has averted several potential traps for the Government.

Mr Straw has become that most unusual political creature, a broadly popular Home Secretary. Senior police officers and Middle England like him for his toughness on crime, the civil liberty groups like him for his libertarian instincts. His enemies accuse

him of moral authoritarianism. Many MPs have even gone so far as to hint that it could be Mr Straw, rather than Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who would replace Mr Blair if he fell under a bus tomorrow.

Mr Straw's misjudgment over yesterday's injunction is unlikely to prove fatal: his instinctive support for new Labour and Mr Blair makes him too valuable an ally for the Prime Minister.

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## On-call judge alerted on his way to a wedding

By HELEN RUMBLOW

MR Justice Rix was among the guests at a wedding reception that was in full swing yesterday afternoon at the Dorchester in central London when he was hauled out to rule on the injunction that had stopped publication of leaks from the Stephen Lawrence report.

As fellow guests danced on at the reception, the judge was poring over papers in a side-room, approving the order to amend the injunction he had signed the night before.

On Saturday the early evening call from the Treasury Solicitor had been an unexpected interruption as he set out to dinner.

It was a busy weekend for the 54-year-old father of five, who has been a High Court judge since 1993. He lists his hobbies as music, opera, Italy, and "formerly fencing". He was educated at New College, Oxford, and Harvard Law School.

Friends say that he has one of the keenest intelligences at the Bar, and that he relishes the cut and thrust of legal argument.

However his background is not in human rights, media or free speech issues. Being a duty judge over the weekend means that he is now involved in a case well outside his specialisation of



Justice Rix renowned for his keen intellect

commercial law. His skill in company and business litigation saw him rise quickly through the ranks to become a Queen's Counsel at the age of 37.

He is now judge in charge of the Commercial List for the Queen's Bench Division.

This was after taking a first in Classics at Oxford and going on to win a Kennedy scholarship at Harvard.

His interest in business is allied with that of his wife, Karen, who is the daughter of Baron Young of Graffham. Lord Young became Secretary of State for Trade and Industry after being ennobled by Margaret Thatcher.

The judge and his wife live in St John's Wood, North London, with their children, including two twin boys.

A director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the judge is also director of the Spiro Institute and a former vice-chairman of the Central Council of Jewish Community Services.

The only other time that Mr Justice Rix hit the headlines was four years ago, and also involved the issuing an emergency injunction. He halted a strike that was planned on the London Underground hours before it was due to start.

## Report makes 'institutional racism' cap a broader fit

Stewart Tandler reports on the changing definition of a perennial problem

THIRTY years after the term "institutional racism" was coined by an American civil rights leader, the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report will create a much wider-ranging interpretation.

Its breadth will be a direct challenge to the future of Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and the narrow definition he stuck by. Its implications will be felt in every police force, as well as other institutions.

The report will suggest that institutional racism is: "The collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin. It can be seen or detected in processes, attitudes and behaviour which amounts to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereo-

typing which disadvantages minority ethnic people."

The phrase was first used by Stokely Carmichael in the last 1960s as the civil rights movement reflected on its limited successes. Carmichael applied the term to offices, businesses and organisations in which attempts to reform were barred by the racism of individuals.

In the aftermath of the Brixton Riots in 1981, Lord Scarman also considered the phrase. He subscribed to the "bad apple" view that there were a few racist officers but not an institution-wide problem.

He rejected any suggestion that the Metropolitan Police was "institutionally racist", understanding this to mean that an organisation was deliberately discriminatory as a matter of policy.

But half-way through the inquiry

last year by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, other definitions appeared. Dr Robin Oakley, an eminent adviser to the Yard and the Home Office, submitted evidence that the "bad apples" argument was too limited.

The Commission for Racial Equality told the inquiry that institutional racism meant that of a whole organisation. The CRE argues that the way an organisation works can lead to unfair and unequal treatment. The commission gives the example of a company where all the staff are white. The firm recruits by word of mouth and this means it will always remain white even though that may not be the intention.

At the inquiry, Sir Herman Ouseley, the CRE chairman, said that institutional racism was "those established laws, customs and practices

which systematically reflect and produce racial inequalities in society. If racist consequences accrue to institutional laws, customs or practices, the institution is racist whether or not the individuals maintaining those practices have racial intentions."

Faced with this type of definition, Sir Paul said that he could not go beyond the Scarman view. Many things were wrong, but not to the extent that a whole force would be condemned.

Other chief constables said they had racism in their forces but David Wilmore, chief constable of Greater Manchester, admitted to "internalised" prejudices that affected the way officers did their jobs.

Now Sir Paul faces a complete rejection of his view by the inquiry. It may be another factor in his decision on whether to go or stay.



The term "institutionalised racism" was first coined by the black American activist Stokely Carmichael, left. In his report, Sir William interpreted it as:

"The collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture or ethnic origin."

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Without a decent start in life, many young people never catch up.

Truancy in these deprived districts is currently running at four times the national average.

While one in four pupils at secondary schools near rundown housing estates, leave at sixteen without a single GCSE, five times the national average.

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4,700 girls of school age fell pregnant in 1998 - more than any other country in Europe.

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Karen aged 14

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# Puzzle of the Millennium Bug is solved

At 12, Patrick Bossert demystified Rubik's Cube; now it's the computer cataclysm, reports Nigel Hawkes

THE man who solved the riddle of Rubik's Cube and wrote a bestseller about it at the age of 12 has now cracked a far more important puzzle — where the Millennium Bug will strike.

Patrick Bossert sold 1.5 million copies of his book at the height of Rubik's Cube mania in 1981. The money he made enabled him to buy personal computers and become an expert programmer. Now the technical director of WST Business Technology at the venerable age of 30, Mr Bossert and a team of colleagues have developed the Delta-T probe, which can ascertain whether microchips buried deep in electronic equipment are likely to fail when 1999 becomes 2000.

Sainsbury's and British Airways are among major organisations testing the probe. Trevor Hales, retail systems director at Sainsbury's, says that tests at a supermarket in Devon have been a success. "We have been working on the Millennium Bug since



Patrick Bossert bought PCs with his royalties

1995, and thanks to the Delta-T probe, we have confirmed that the work we have done on equipment with embedded chips has been spot-on," he said.

Mr Bossert said that his invention made it possible to find out exactly how individu-

al embedded chips — many of which were built by long-defunct companies — operate. Crucially, it can tell whether each particular chip processes the date and time, making it likely to malfunction at the instant the year 1999 becomes the year 2000.

Such chips control systems as diverse as production lines, medical equipment, telecommunications, cash machines, fire alarms and sprinklers.

"The programs controlling these devices are built into the chips themselves, and the people who originally sold the equipment cannot always guarantee they won't fail," Mr Bossert said.

"Again and again, companies find they can't get statements from the original vendors of the equipment, or if they can, those statements are very circumstantial."

The Delta-T probe consists of a lap-top computer linked through an analysis box to the device being tested. Chips are attached to the back of the



Mr Bossert and his team have developed a way of eavesdropping on old microchips to see if they can beat the bug

chip, and the probe "listens" as the chip operates.

The analysis box is able to establish whether the chip processes the date and time. If so, the lap-top computer records the actual lines of computer code in the chip responsible for that function and sends them off by e-mail for detailed analysis. This can reveal whether the chip is likely to fail, and if so, how bad the effects are likely to be.

"Only a very small percentage fail critically," Mr Bossert said. "One in 100 might devel-

op faults, but these might not be critical — a fire system might log alarms in the wrong order, for example. But one in 500 might fail in a way that would prevent the equipment working at all."

Once such a chip is found, he said, the safest option is to replace it.

Mr Bossert, who was brought up in Richmond, Surrey, started his career by working out how to solve Rubik's Cube, a baffling toy made up of 27 smaller cubes with faces of different colours. The aim is

to manipulate the cube until each side is a uniform colour.

He produced a four-page photocopied guide which he sold for 30p each to friends at Grey Court Secondary School in Richmond. Seen by the publisher Tony Lacey and marketed as *You Can Do the Cube* by Puffin, it sold faster than *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

Mr Bossert declines to say how much he ultimately made from the book, although it has been reported as being in the vicinity of £70,000. "I did quite well out of it," he

conceded. "It was more than I ever dreamt of."

Mr Bossert went on to study electronics at York University, where he met his wife. He joined a software company and helped to build it up until he was recruited by the engineering consultants WSP.

He now has two sons, aged four and two. "The elder one is already using the Internet," he says. More details on the Delta-T probe are available on the Internet at <http://www.embedded-science.com>

## Ingham charged over dispute

By ADAM SHERWIN

SIR BERNARD INGHAM, who was Margaret Thatcher's rumbustious press secretary when she was Prime Minister, has been charged with criminal damage. He presented himself at Croydon Police Station yesterday and was charged over an incident in which his neighbour's Mercedes was allegedly kicked and dented.

The incident was the latest in a feud between Sir Bernard and Barry Cripps. Sir Bernard was arrested in December after a dispute about access to their neighbouring garages, in Purley, Surrey.

The row is believed to have begun when Sir Bernard saw a car owned by Mr and Mrs Cripps parked near the garage. Friends of Mr Cripps claim that he has an undisputed right of way over the vehicular access behind Sir Bernard's property. While Mr Cripps was trying to drive up this shared access, Sir Bernard allegedly kicked the car.

Sir Bernard maintains that Mr Cripps drove over his land without permission. "When I remonstrated with him, he blocked my way into my garage and then alleged that I damaged his door, although I could see no damage," he said at the time. Sir Bernard is to appear before Croydon magistrates tomorrow.

## Michael likely to quit as MP

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

ALUN MICHAEL, Welsh Secretary and likely to be the first secretary of the new Welsh assembly, indicated yesterday that he would step down as an MP at the next election.

After his victory over Rhodri Morgan in the hard-fought Welsh Labour leadership election, Mr Michael moved fast to confirm his long-term commitment to Welsh politics. He also spoke yesterday of the urgent need to unite the Labour Party in Wales to fight the assembly elections on May 6.

Mr Michael is to head Labour's proportional representation list of candidates in Mid and West Wales, and if he wins a place and becomes First Secretary he was expected to leave Tony Blair's Cabinet within three months.

But yesterday, in a series of interviews, Mr Michael acknowledged that his long-term plans were for the Welsh assembly. "I see my future in Wales. I think that is the inevitable consequence of the deci-

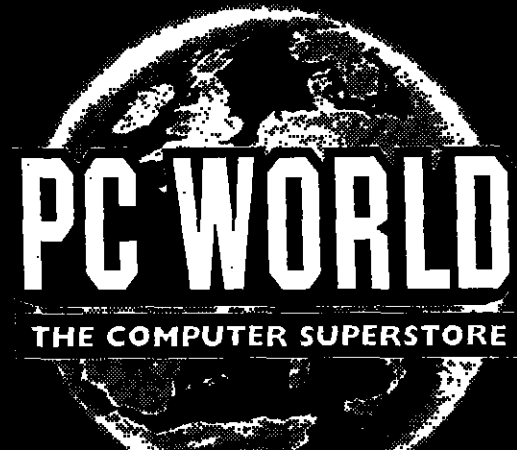
sion I took last year (to stand for the leadership)," he said.

Mr Michael is to meet Mr Morgan for talks this week to discuss how they can best forge a future working relationship for the good of the party and the Welsh assembly. There is speculation that Mr Michael might renew his offer for Mr Morgan to stand as his deputy in the election campaign, but last night senior Labour sources in Wales insisted that Mr Morgan would not be offered a specific job.

It is thought that if Mr Morgan is offered a senior Cabinet post Mr Michael would also have to offer a job to Ron Davies, the former Welsh Secretary, who resigned from the Cabinet after "a moment of madness" on Clapham Common last October. Mr Davies has supported Mr Michael throughout the election campaign and is attempting to rebuild his political career.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20

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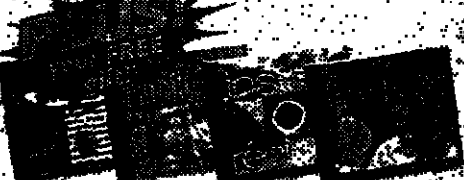
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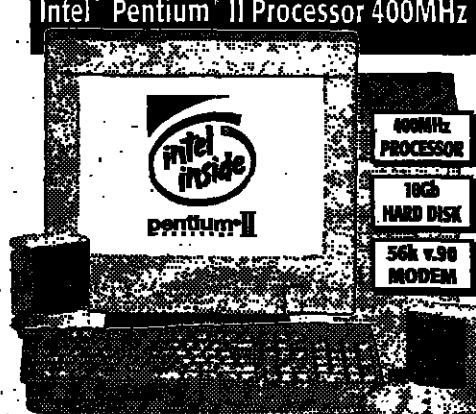
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# PC WORLD

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# Foreigners are trapped by visa office delays

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

INTERNATIONAL business executives and foreign travellers are facing lengthy delays because of chaos at the centre dealing with immigration. Computer problems and an office move have caused a backlog of casework, with the result that some people are trapped in Britain because their travel documents cannot be located.

Some delays had been forecast at the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in Croydon, South London, but the Home Office now admits that the problems will continue until at least Easter, and will worsen before they get better.

Amid complaints from MPs and the business community, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, made an emergency visit to the centre last week to assess the scale of the difficulties that led to lengthy delays over visa extensions and residency applications. A damning report on a computer project is

expected next month from the National Audit Office.

The chaos has been described as "worse than a Third World country" by a City solicitor, Julia Onslow-Cole of Cameron McKenna. She said: "We have had real difficulties for many clients and there is no end in sight. It is paralysing business applications."

Mail was unanswered and no one responded to telephone calls, she said, affecting international businessmen based in Britain who wished to travel abroad or extend their work permits. A fast-tracking service for solicitors representing businessmen has been withdrawn.

Foreign businessmen based in the UK were unable to leave while changes to their work permits were considered. The alteration to a work permit is dealt with in Sheffield but it must be included in their passport, a task that has to be carried out in Croydon.

A City bond dealer who con-

tacted *The Times* was told that it would take four to six months to renew his Croatian wife's visa. In 60 telephone calls, he could reach only an answerphone.

He said: "It is a total shambles. If you go down there at 7.15am there are sometimes up to 200 people waiting outside the building and then when they get in there are hardly any facilities."

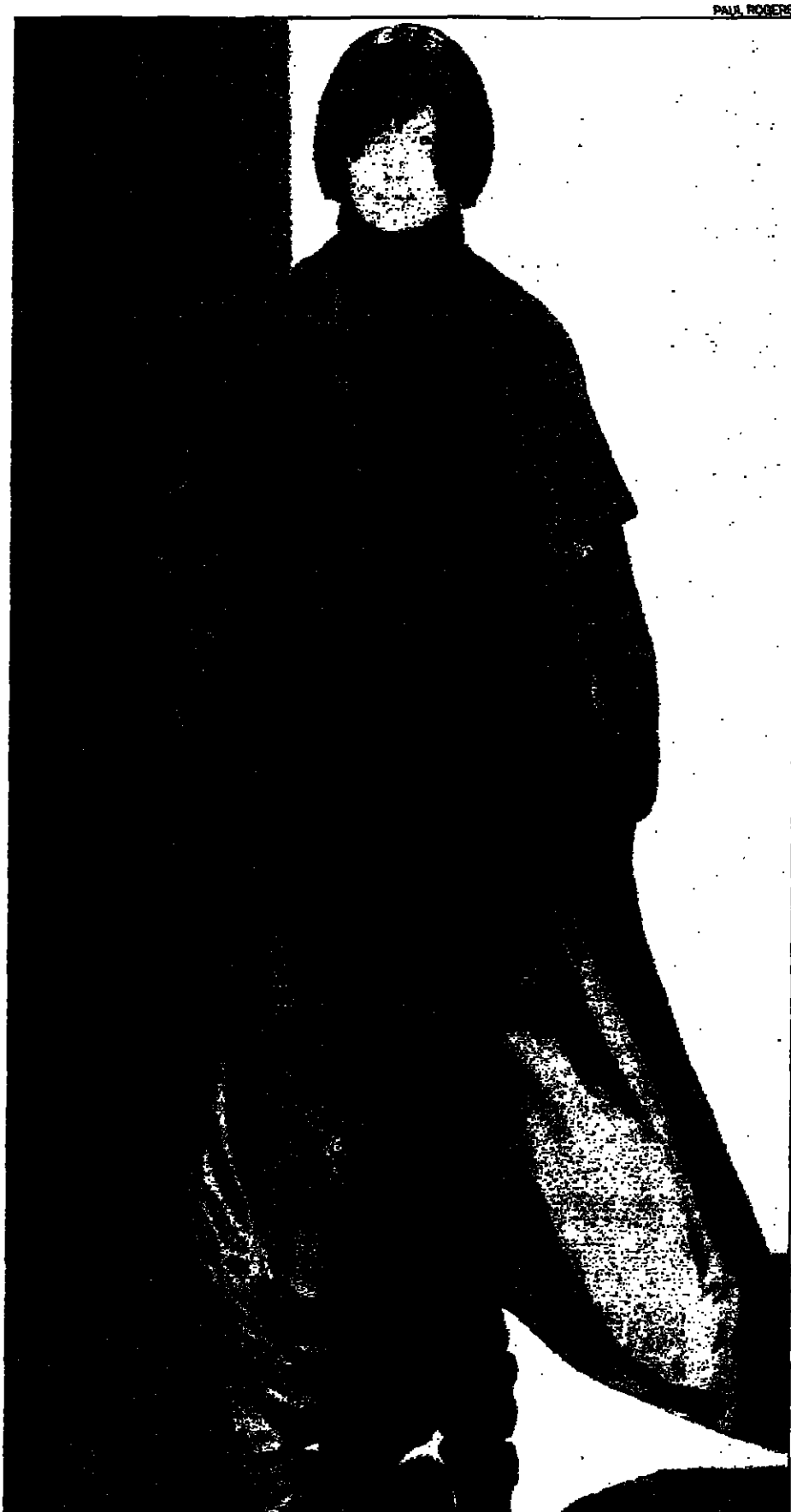
Mike O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, had said that there would be considerable upheaval between December and February as computers were upgraded, staff moved from one building to another, and officials were trained in new working methods. A company installing software pulled out of the project last year, but the Home Office decided to press ahead with the move even though the new system had not been established.

Computers are not yet dealing with casework, so staff are still using paper files. Many files are being stored in an underground garage that staff cannot enter as it is considered a health hazard because of fumes from a car park above.

John Tincey, director of research for the Immigration Service Union, said last night: "The trouble is that the computer is not ready."

"We are trying to run a computerised system with no computers able to deal with individual paper files. People are still exchanging paper files around the office."

A Home Office spokesman said that 18,900 cases had been dealt with in December, and a similar number in January. The spokesman added: "Disruption was always expected but the system we are putting in will allow things to pick up. Problems have been greater than we anticipated."



Maria Grachvogel's designs were among those kicking off London Fashion Week



Elspeth Gibson: new looks and bestselling evening wear

## Catwalks of London purr

By LISA ARMSTRONG, FASHION EDITOR

LONDON Fashion Week began in earnest yesterday, 24 hours after New York's ended. Early signs suggest that attendance, of both international press and buyers, is up on last season. The atmosphere is buoyant so far.

"I'm feeling very optimistic about showing here," Elspeth Gibson said after her show at the Senate House of London University yesterday morning. "Everyone we wanted to come was here."

Gibson's winter collection — her third on the catwalk — was polished and extremely desirable, with a mixture of those all-important directional pieces that keep fashion editors happy, and the beaded evening wear that has become a bestseller for her.

Key among the fashion-forward pieces were the A-line, mid-calf skirts that were all over New York. Gibson's were sliced in cashmere or moulded from stretch wools with lace inserts for day. Nighttime versions came in velvet and were trimmed

with ruffles or crimson beads and all were teamed with Jimmy Choo's convertible fringed leather boots.

During the next few days, an "alternative" fashion show schedule, crammed with new, young talent, is taking shape alongside the official British Fashion Council timetable.

Three highlights of the off-schedule schedule are Marcus Lupfer, Shelly Fox (who won the prestigious Jerwood prize two weeks ago), and Luella Bartley. Bartley, who when she isn't moonlighting as a designer, is a fashion journalist, describes the collection as "menswear on girls. You know, boxer shorts, men's shirting and boilersuits".

The ambience will be Fabulous-London-Casual: her friend Katie Grand, fashion director of Dazed and Confused, is styling the show and another friend, Steve Mackey of the band Pulp, has lent his flat for the presentation: Ralph Lauren it won't be.

### STRANDED BY BUREAUCRACY

Chang Tsai-chen Wang is trapped in Britain because of the chaos that has engulfed the directorate and has no idea when she will next see her home in Taiwan. She cannot leave because her passport is with the directorate and is unable to confirm when it will be returned.

Mrs Wang, 73, has received no receipt from the directorate's office in Croydon that it has received her travel documents and has been unable to speak to anyone because the telephones are permanently engaged.

When Mrs Wang, who came to Britain for the birth of her granddaughter, visited the directorate, she was told that the only way to be sure of seeing an official was to return another day and start queuing at 5.30am.

Christopher Hughes, her son-in-law, said last night: "It is appalling that people should be treated in this way. Mrs Wang is unable to leave the UK and has no idea when she might be able to do so."

Dr Hughes, a lecturer in Chinese politics at Birmingham University, said: "The directorate is inefficient, slow-moving and has cut itself off from the outside world. Even Chinese bureaucracy would not treat people with such contempt."

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# Archer's son facing shares inquiry

Three City dealers known as the Flaming Ferraris have been suspended, reports Adam Sherwin

MRS ARCHER, the high-flying son of Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, has been suspended from his job as a City dealer and faces questions from the City watchdogs. The American investment bank, Credit Suisse First Boston, is investigating trades carried out by the 24-year-old Oxford graduate and two colleagues.

James Archer, David Crasanti and Adrian Ezra were hailed among the most successful share traders in the world after aggressive dealing tactics reputedly earned their firm more than £100 million last year. They are members of the so-called Flaming Ferraris club, named after their favourite post-work cocktail.

Now the bank has confirmed that the three were suspended last week and are the subject of an internal investigation. Trading records are being scrutinised for irregularities.

The team at the bank shared a bonus last year estimated at £5 million. The flamboyant Mr Archer — the youngest of the team — is reputed to earn £250,000, although rivals doubt this.

The Flaming Ferraris club specialises in complex share deals, often investing up to £3 billion at once, profiting from anomalies in the world's largest stock markets. Five of the team work in London while 11 others are spread around the world in Australia, Hong

Kong, America and the Continent. They start work at 7am and hardly leave their desks until they finish 12 hours later.

They are run by Mr Crasanti, 34, a former wrestler and economic graduate from Princeton University. He is supported by Mr Ezra, a former Indian squash champion and Harvard graduate.

The team has a "work hard, play hard" ethos. Members recently held a pyjama party to celebrate their success at the end of last year, ordering caterers to bring vast amounts of whipped cream for a food fight. Mr Ezra is said to have taken just two days off in 1998. Most Friday evenings, members of the club can be found in the Nam Long Vietnamese restaurant in Old Brompton Road, West London, drinking their hallmark cocktails.

For their Christmas party, they hired a ten-seater stretched limousine to ferry them to Nobu, one of London's most expensive restaurants, in Park Lane. The three who have now been suspended were joined by the other members of the London-based team, Conor Campbell and Denis Albert.

Two of the five traders have girlfriends but one has said: "In this job you can only be married to your work." They come out to play on Friday nights, when they are joined by their colleagues who try to fly in from around the world. The night begins with several rounds of the rum-flavoured



Work hard, play hard: Adrian Ezra, second left, and James Archer, third left, on a night out among the Flaming Ferraris in West London

cocktail from which they took their name. A friend said: "They earn very good money but they are not flash. They are certainly not playboys or cowboys but when they go out to let their hair down they are just like any other group of young men. They are all very conscious that they do not be-

have in a way that would harm the bank."

Mr Archer attended Eton before reading chemistry at Oxford. He is said to have first shown his business skills at college where he set up a company selling T-shirts to help fund the work of drug rehabilitation centres. He was a model

student during his first year, defiantly stating: "I don't smoke, drink or take drugs." Within a year, he had become a leading light in the Assassins, Oxford's most decadent drinking society.

After leaving Oxford, he studied economics at Stanford University, California. He

shares his father's London penthouse suite overlooking the Thames during the week and spend weekends with friends in the country.

Neither James Archer nor his father were available for comment yesterday.

CSPB announced the suspension in the same month

that the multimillion-pound bonuses would have been confirmed. The Flaming Ferraris were planning a huge party to celebrate their awards.

The Securities and Futures Authority is also understood to be involved in the investigation, although it declined to comment.

## Dobson to oversee selection of NHS executives

By Mark Ingfield and Ian Murray

FRANK DOBSON plans to oversee the appointment of all NHS chief executives as part of a drive to create a new super-class of health professionals.

The Health Secretary told *The Times* that he personally wants to scrutinise the CVs of shortlisted candidates and in some cases meet them before anyone is appointed. The move threatens to bring him into direct conflict with health authorities and hospital trusts.

Chief executives of hospitals earn on average £75,000 a year for handling budgets in excess of £100 million. Mr Dobson has been openly critical of the performance of some trusts, and has threatened to discipline any that fail to keep to his economy and waiting list targets.

Any effort to intervene in the process of selecting executives threatens to sour relations with hospital trusts and health authorities, who for the past 50 years have been able to appoint their own heads.

"If the minister is going to do this it amounts to a political process," said Karen Cairnes, director of the Institute of Health Service Management. "Ministers should not be involved in the appointment or promotion of public servants and there have to be safeguards to prevent this happening. It is essential that there is a distancing between politicians and public servants."

She said that the institute backed moves by Sir Alan Langlands to ensure that high, uniform standards were maintained by external assessors, but that "I can see no role for Mr Dobson in doing that".

It would require a change in the law for the Health Secretary to be able to appoint NHS chief executives, and he told *The Times* that his hands-on approach was meant to complement rather than replace the existing system.

He would look at only the most senior posts, but said: "Given the importance of these jobs it is only right that I am involved."

## 'Time to end Irish exile'

By Martin Fletcher  
Chief Ireland Correspondent

A CAMPAIGN to end the exile of hundreds of people driven out of Northern Ireland by paramilitary groups during the Troubles is to be launched in London and Dublin this week.

The IRA and the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force have halted their "punishment" attacks after public condemnation, and a group of 40 prominent

figures will now seek to stop the paramilitaries' equally barbaric practice of ordering people to leave the province.

"People power stopped the beatings and can now persuade paramilitary groups to end the misery of hundreds of people who have been driven out of their homes," said Harry Barnes, a senior Labour MP who heads the cross-party peace group New Dialogue.

He intends to raise the issue in Parliament this week and

has the support of David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister. Lord Fitt, former leader of the nationalist SDLP, and several other MPs.

The Belfast human rights group Families Against Intimidation and Terror claims that 64 people, including 15 families, were exiled by loyalist and republican paramilitaries in January alone. As many as 18 more have had to leave this month. They are usually given 24 or 72 hours to get out.

## Supporter of GM rebel recants

By Nigel Hawkes  
Science Editor

A LEADING supporter of Arpad Pusztai, the scientist who claimed that genetically modified potatoes were dangerous and sparked the current GM food controversy, has changed his mind.

Maarten Chrispeels, Professor of Biology at the University of California in San Diego and one of the few specialists originally to back Dr Pusztai, now says he finds his claims "extraordinary". Dr Pusztai has been suspended from the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen. In an e-

mail to other scientists debating the issue, Professor Chrispeels says: "A mountain of scientific evidence and data would be needed to convince me that this claim is correct. Considering how widely accepted and widely used plant transformation is after 15 years of intensive research, one would need to have rock-solid evidence to conclude that the entire procedure is flawed, and that a ban on genetically modified organisms, or the use of GMOs in food, is called for."

In a separate development, Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, defended Lord Sainsbury, the Science Minister, who, it

emerged, had made a loan to a biotechnology company. Mr Rooker insisted there was no conflict of interest because Lord Sainsbury was "in no way involved in decisions related to genetically modified foods".

Genetically modified crops could be banned north of the border as Scottish politicians put the new Edinburgh parliament on a collision course with the Government. The Scottish National Party, the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives have pledged to work together to impose a moratorium on commercial production of GM crops until they are proven to be safe.

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British dealers say the 'royalty' will damage a market worth £2.2bn and destroy jobs

# New sales tax causes furore in art world

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A TAX that will delight artists and appal dealers and auctioneers will be approved by the European Commission this week.

The "droit de suite" tax, which is expected to be voted through on Thursday, means that royalties will be paid to an artist or their family or estate every time a work is sold for up to 70 years after their death. The percentage is yet to be agreed but is likely to be between 2 and 5 per cent of the work's price.

Artists argue that they deserve to benefit from their work but the art trade says that it fears a destruction of the £2.2 billion market, with the loss of 5,000 jobs.

The trade has long campaigned against the European Commission's efforts to harmonise the art market across Europe with a tax on sales but the directive is likely to be adopted next year after being voted through.

Dealers and auctioneers say that works will be sent for sale to America and other countries where the tax is not imposed, diminishing London's standing as an international art centre.

The artist's viewpoint was put by Rachel Duffield, chief executive of the Design and Artists Co-operative Society, a non-profit national collecting society for the visual arts. "Nobody has taken into account the artists. Everyone [in the trade] is decrying it, but artists are behind it."

It is a royalty, she said, not a tax, and is likely to affect anything that the trade describes as an original work of art. The exact definition of what sales will be taxable — for example, if crafts and manuscripts should be included — is among issues to be decided.

Unlike photographers or illustrators who earn a living

from reproduction rights, artists creating unique pieces say that they cannot benefit from repeated sales. They are likely to have sold the works for a pittance before finding recognition.

Peter Blake, the pop artist, recalled selling several large paintings in the mid-1950s for less than £25. "They now sell for a great deal. It would be nice to have a part of that."

One of them, a collage, is to be auctioned by Christie's, South Kensington, on March 4. It is estimated to fetch up to £8,000. The younger generation would particularly benefit, artists say. Most are living on the breadline, with Damien Hirst and Rachel Whiteread among a few who make fortunes from their art. A recent Arts Council-funded survey found that 37 per cent earn less than £5,000 a year.

Anya Patel, 30, sold her *Silent Screams* in 1993 for £1,500. Two years later, it had been resold for £6,500. "It's more than painful. It's just disrespectful and lacks justice."

Ms Patel, executive director of the European Council of Artists, said: "We are happy for dealers to make money, but not when artists are denied what is rightfully theirs. It's fat cats lining their pockets."

Rene Gimpel is, unusually, a leading dealer who sides with the artists. Yesterday, he accused his colleagues of being "selfish and absurd" in resisting such a tiny percentage.

The tax was introduced in the 1920s, in France. Eleven states have it now, among those who do not are Ireland, The Netherlands and Austria.

Anthony Browne, chairman of the British Art Market Federation, is among those who say that generally only the heirs of the most successful artists benefit from such a tax because work by the most recent

painters and sculptors is not being resold as much.

Leslie Waddington, a London dealer and fervent opponent of the tax, said that in France only £5 million was collected in droit de suite in 1996. "That money went to six or seven families." The biggest beneficiaries are the estates of Picasso and Matisse, who least need it, say the critics.

That view was contested by Jean-Pierre Manguin, whose grandfather, Henri Manguin, was an artist and close friend of Matisse. Manguin's works sell for between £1,000 and £100,000. His grandson said that the money received from the tax was vital to his family.



Anya Patel in her studio: a picture she sold for £1,500 was resold two years later for £6,500. "It lacks justice," she said. Photograph: Richard Folke



Michelangelo's masculine female forms, such as that of *Night*, right, may simply reflect a dearth of women models

## Michelangelo was not gay, says scholar

By DALYA ALBERGE

THE widely held assumption that Michelangelo was homosexual is being challenged by a leading scholar. James Beck, a specialist in Renaissance art at Columbia University, believes that the master was simply more passionate about art and his family than sex.

"The skimpy evidence that survives suggests that Michelangelo — whether through disinclination, restraint, shyness, conviction or fear — held his libido in check and that he had few, if any, sexual experiences," Professor Beck said. "The contention that Michelangelo was a homosexual, closet or otherwise ... is without solid historical support."

Michelangelo has long been a gay icon, along with Shakespeare and other historical figures about whose sexuality little is known. For more than a century, Professor Beck said, historians have alluded to him being homosexual, primarily because of the masculinisation of his female subjects and suggestions of homosexuality that were made during his lifetime. Professor Beck expects to be pilloried by the gay lobby over his theory.

His study of the artist's life and work, *Three Worlds of Michelangelo*, is to be published by Norton on April 21. Professor Beck's research involved extensive study of letters in the artist's hand which suggest that, beyond his dedi-

cation to his work and devotion to his father and four brothers, Michelangelo "may have avoided starting a family out of distaste for the sexual act."

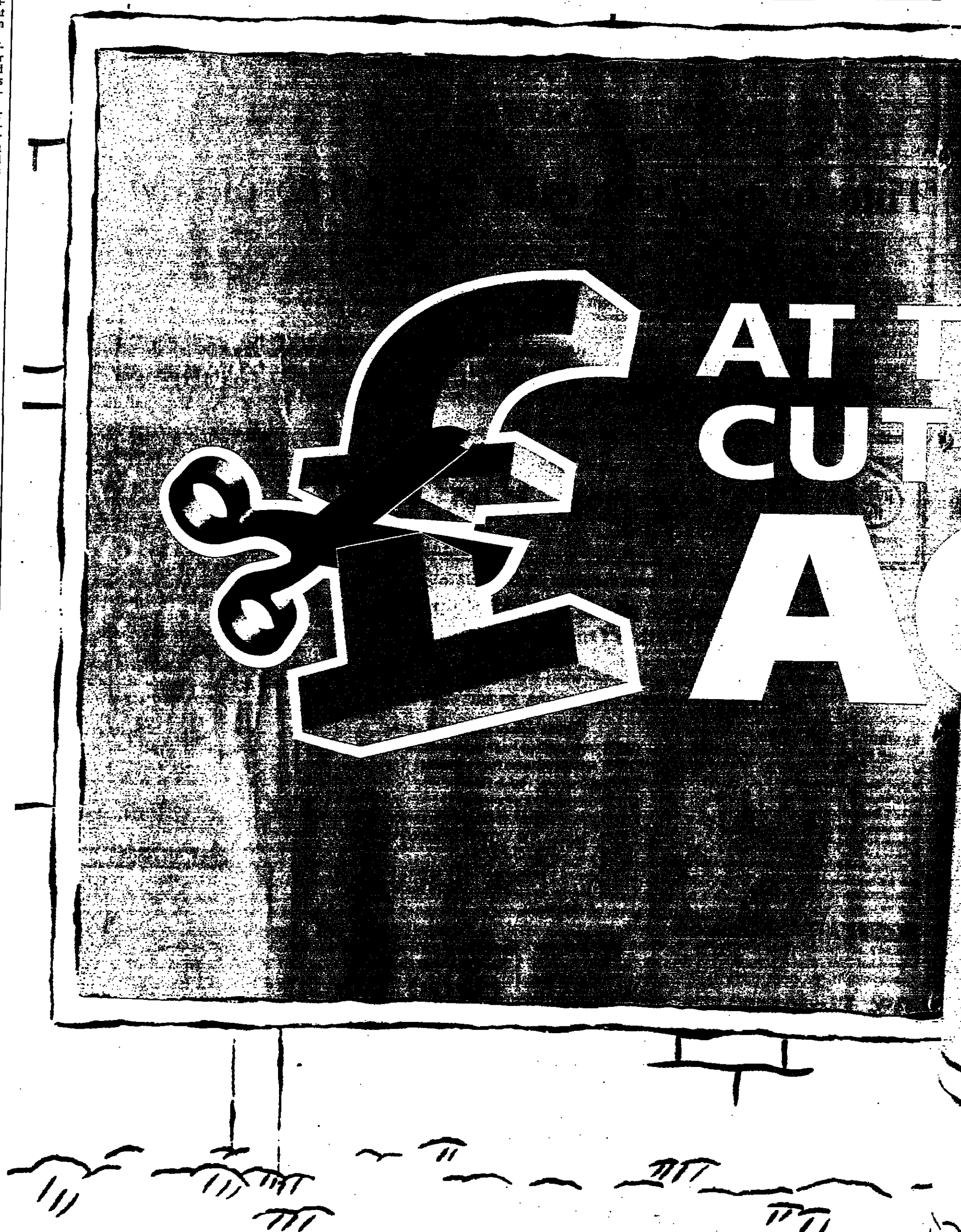
Professor Beck sees Michelangelo, who never married, as a "highly family-orientated person" and one whose sexual prudence may have been caused in part by a fear of contracting syphilis.

The artist, he said, "had young men friends", but accusations of homosexuality made during his lifetime were those of a malicious contemporary whose commission Michelangelo had rejected. Michelangelo's pupil and biographer, Ascanio Condivi, noted that "obscene thoughts never issued from him".

Professor Beck said: "The fact that he admired and rendered marvellous images of young men cannot be used as evidence of latent or real homosexuality, nor, for that matter, can the masculinisation of his woman subjects."

At the time of Michelangelo's life, Professor Beck said, female models were rare and artists tended to use classical statues for reference. "Michelangelo never drew a nude woman from life, basing his renderings on males, usually his studio boys, as was customary," he said.

"Gays will be angry," Professor Beck said yesterday, "But I'm just weighing up the evidence."



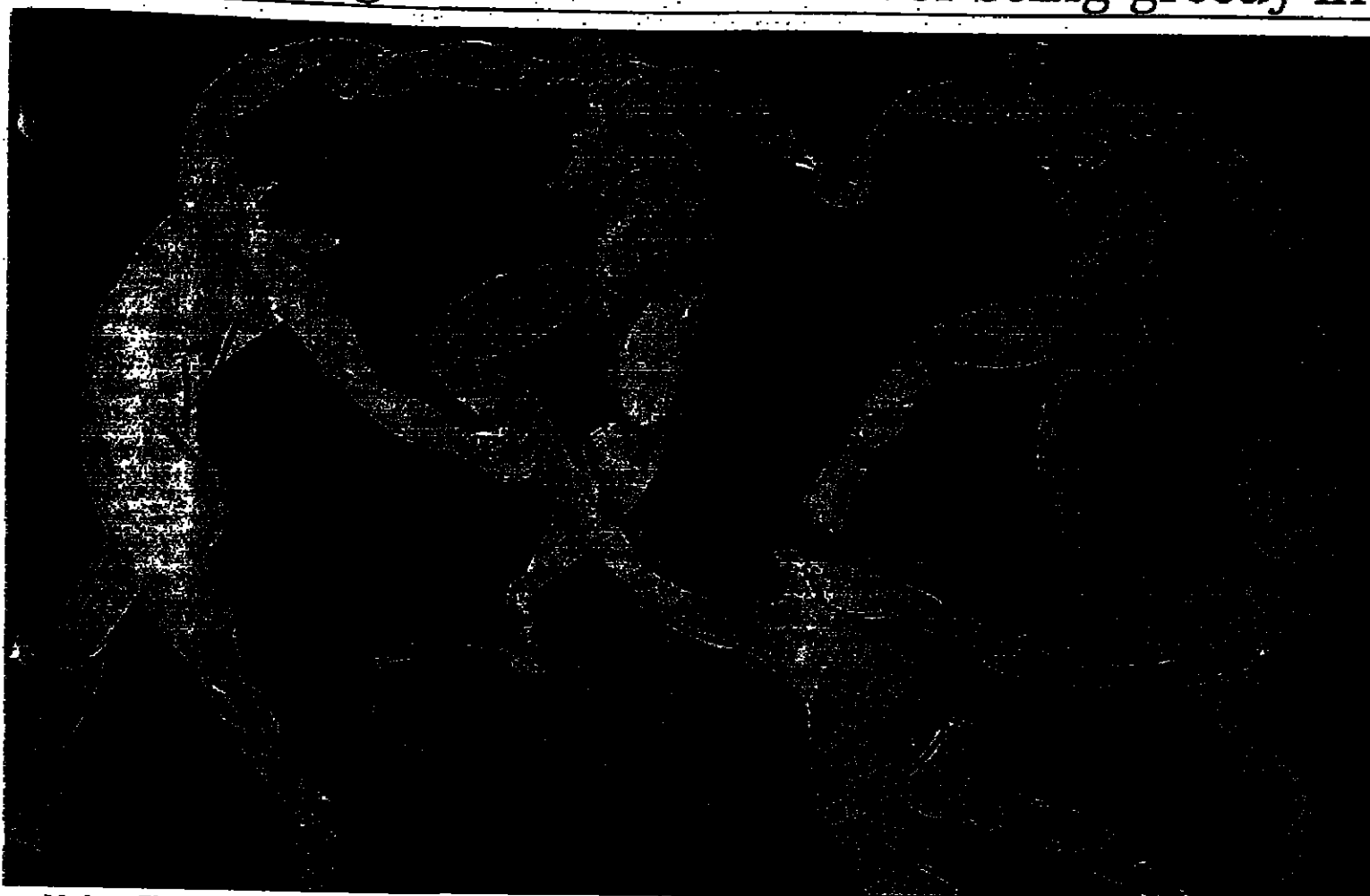
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MONDAY FEBRUARY 22 1999  
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# but struggling artists accuse them of being greedy in opposing long overdue reform



Matisse's *The Dance* and, right, *Still Life 1920* by Dorothy Hepworth. When the French picture was auctioned for Fr8.4 million in 1995, the family profited by Fr252,000. The British artist's estate receives no benefit from sales of her work

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## WINNERS AND LOSERS

THE estate of the French master Henri Matisse (below) is among the few main beneficiaries of droit de suite, although his most important — and expensive — works have tended to be sold in countries such as Britain and America, which have so far resisted such a tax. The record world price for a Matisse stands at £8.7 million.

Among the few major works to have been sold in France, where a droit de suite tax operates, was his watercolour *The Dance*: it was auctioned in 1995 for Fr8.4 million and the estate received Fr252,000.

A spokeswoman said that although the estate, whose president is Matisse's grandson, Claude Duthuit, is not reliant financially on droit de suite, it is vital in supporting

THE family of Dorothy Hepworth (1894-1978), who is also known as Patricia Prece (below), has watched helplessly as others have benefited from the sales of her paintings.

Christine Hepworth, whose father was Hepworth's cousin, struggles to make a living with odd jobs, includ-



ing gardening. She is in her fifties and suffers from arthritis.



less prominent and poorer artists and their families: "It is important to help artists who have not had success."

Commenting on warnings from the British trade that droit de suite benefits only a few, she said: "They are thinking about what they themselves are losing."

Yesterday, she welcomed the possibility of financial help, however small. A percentage of still-lives that sell for £2,500 to £3,500 and of portraits that fetch up to £5,000 could make life a little easier. "Anything like that will help me no end. One would certainly like to see some of the money coming into one's pocket. It gets a bit hairy, financially."

She said that seeing the works sell for sizeable sums has been painful. The money raised from a studio sale soon after Hepworth's death totalled the cost of just two paintings today. "No one was interested in the works then and we didn't have the space."

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# Top marks for small primary schools

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SCHOOLS too small to be included in tomorrow's league tables of primary test results are outperforming their larger counterparts, according to a government analysis.

A report by the Department for Education and Employment on two years' results shows schools with ten candidates or fewer achieving 9 per cent better scores than the rest. Small schools were three times more likely than others to have all their 11-year-olds at the level expected for their age in English, mathematics and science.

More than 14,000 primary schools will be included in tables of national curriculum test results. But about 1,500

porters of small schools hope that the reports will act as a counterpoint to the continuing string of closure proposals by local authorities anxious to cut costs and remove surplus places in the education system.

The national association has helped to resist closures in Salford, Surrey and Windsor in the past year, but more are in the pipeline despite ministers' assurances that village schools will not be closed if children would have to travel unreasonable distances as a result.

The latest dispute is over the 100-pupil Saul Primary School, near Gloucester. The parish council is opposing plans to bus children several miles to a neighbouring village, but Gloucestershire education authority wants to close the school next year.

Mr Benford said: "Village schools should be the centre of their community because they are often the only public building left in the area. The results show that they work educationally and that mixed-age classes are not a disadvantage."

A number of authorities are experimenting with innovative schemes to make small schools financially viable. In Dorset, a federation of four schools is run by a single governing body, while in the Forest of Dean two schools in neighbouring villages are being replaced by a new school with community facilities.

The association, founded 20 years ago to combat a wave of closures, is acquiring a growing membership in towns.

## Big effort from small districts

THE top ten counties quickest off the mark in dispatching orders for *The Times Free Books for Schools* scheme are announced today (Hannah Betts writes). Large counties with the most schools are leading the way. The West Midlands heads the list with twice as many books ordered as anywhere else — 2,645 books and 469,250 tokens.

Smaller districts may be unable to compete in terms of volume, but they are among the most committed. The islands of Skye and Uist may not have



ordered any books yet, but every school in both areas is participating — three schools on Skye and the three shared between the Isles of Uist.

All schools will get a helping hand this week as *The Times* is printing double tokens.

Today's tokens, page 16



Girls from Newmarket Rugby Club's under-16 team will be among those with the opportunity to display their skills in the Millennium Youth Games

## Girls get a sporting chance to shine

By MARK HENDERSON

HUNDREDS of girls' football and rugby teams are to compete in a prestigious national sports festival for youngsters to mark the Millennium — while boys are forced to stand on the sidelines.

The traditionally male preserves of rugby and football are among eight sports that will make up the Millennium Youth Games, launched today by Mr Smith, the Culture Secretary, and Sally Gunnell, the Olympic hurdler: yet most boys will not be allowed to take part.

The football tournament is limited to girls and children with learning disabilities, while boys can play rugby

only at under-11 level — and even then in mixed-sex sides. A netball competition will also be girls-only, while hockey, athletics, swimming, basketball and tennis will give both sexes a chance.

More than 300,000 children under 15 are expected to take part in the £4.3 million games next year, part of the £100 million Millennium Festival that will be announced today by Mr Smith. The games are being organised by Sport England, until recently the Sports Council for England, and are partly funded by BAA, a sponsor of the Millennium Dome.

Boys have been left out of the football and rugby competitions because organisers believed that girls needed

a stage on which to prove their skills at these male-orientated sports. Both have become increasingly popular among girls, with more than 3,000 girls' football teams in Britain.

Anita White, director of development at Sport England, said: "There are lots of leagues, cups and competitions — almost too many — for boys to play in, but what we are hearing all the time is that girls want to play but don't have the opportunity. We are giving them a chance to shine and show that they can play football and rugby to a very high standard as well."

Helen Ames, national youth development officer at the Women's Rugby Football Union, said the games would deliver a massive boost to women's

rugby. "It is going to be a tremendous competition that will give girls a chance to play rugby as never before," she said.

The Millennium Youth Games will be one of the main projects in the Millennium Festival, which is designed to ensure that all parts of the United Kingdom can participate fully in the celebrations. Mr Smith said on GMTV yesterday: "I want to make sure that the Millennium is something to celebrate everywhere. I sometimes get annoyed with the national press that they seem to think that the only thing happening for the Millennium is the Dome in Greenwich. That's going to be wonderful but there's a lot else happening as well."



Paul Angell, who learnt to juggle for his silver award

be, rather than what we tell them it should be."

Paul Angell, 16, of Slough, chose cactus-growing as his skill for his gold award, having learnt to juggle for his silver award. "I didn't want to do something boring," he said. "I have had to research all about

my plant and look after it." In his opinion, girls "are more conscientious than boys; they are more organised".

Details of the scheme can be found on the Internet on [www.theaward.org](http://www.theaward.org)

Leading article, page 21

## ... and boys wanted to revive award scheme

By ALEXANDRA FREAN  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
CORRESPONDENT

THE rules of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme are to be changed to make it more attractive to boys. Girls now account for more than 52 per cent of entrants, and win 55 per cent of awards obtained under the scheme, which is open to 14 to 25-year-olds.

Vice-Admiral Michael Gretton, director of the scheme, said that there was concern that boys were dropping out or not joining at all because they thought the scheme was "not cool". He said: "We found that girls were more de-

termined, persistent and dogged than boys. This is partly because, between the ages of 14 and 16, girls tend to be more mature and focused. Boys often reject formal education at this stage and our rules might seem inflexible and too formal for them."

The scheme was started in 1956 to foster leadership, self-discipline, enterprise and perseverance. To qualify for an award, candidates had to complete four sections: service (usually in the community), skills, physical recreation, and expeditions. After two years, an award for girls was started with an emphasis on domestic skills: the two awards were later merged. There are now up to 100,000 entrants every year.

Vice-Admiral Gretton said that research by the organisers found the skills section to be the biggest obstacle for boys. To pass it, candidates must devote at least an hour a week to a subject on a prescribed list. They must do this for six months to gain a bronze award, 12 months for a silver, and 18 months for a gold.

Under new rules, entrants will be able to choose any skill that is approved and need only practise it for three months. Vice-Admiral Gretton said the organisers wanted the scheme to be "more what the entrants want it to

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Scandal 'could kill Olympics'

Michael Payne, the marketing director of the International Olympic Committee, said yesterday that the "cash for votes" crisis was "very serious and will have the potential to be fatal" if the committee does not take decisive action next month.

Mr Payne, who met the Games' top 11 sponsors in New York ten days ago, described the committee's meeting in Lausanne on March 17 and 18 as its "most important in the past 20 years". It will vote on the recommended expulsions of five members implicated in the report on how Salt Lake City was chosen for the 2002 Winter Olympics. It will also be asked to change the selection voting system.

#### Case dropped

Court-martial proceedings against five members of the Royal Green Jackets accused of a racist attack have been dropped. The Ministry of Defence said a prosecution witness was absent, and four of the five had left the Army.

#### DNA crime lab

The Forensic Science Service will this week open a centre to cope with hundreds of unsolved cases reopened because of advances in DNA profiling. About 50 people will work at the unit in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

#### Climbers injured

Two climbers are recovering after falling in separate incidents in the Cairngorms. Raymond Newby, 31, from Middlewich, Cheshire, was airlifted to hospital in Inverness, where the other man, who has not been named, is also being treated.

#### Rail inquiries

John Reid, the Transport Minister, is to send inspectors to ask passengers what they think of privatised rail services. He said that those companies that were not performing had "no future in the industry".

#### Victims' anger

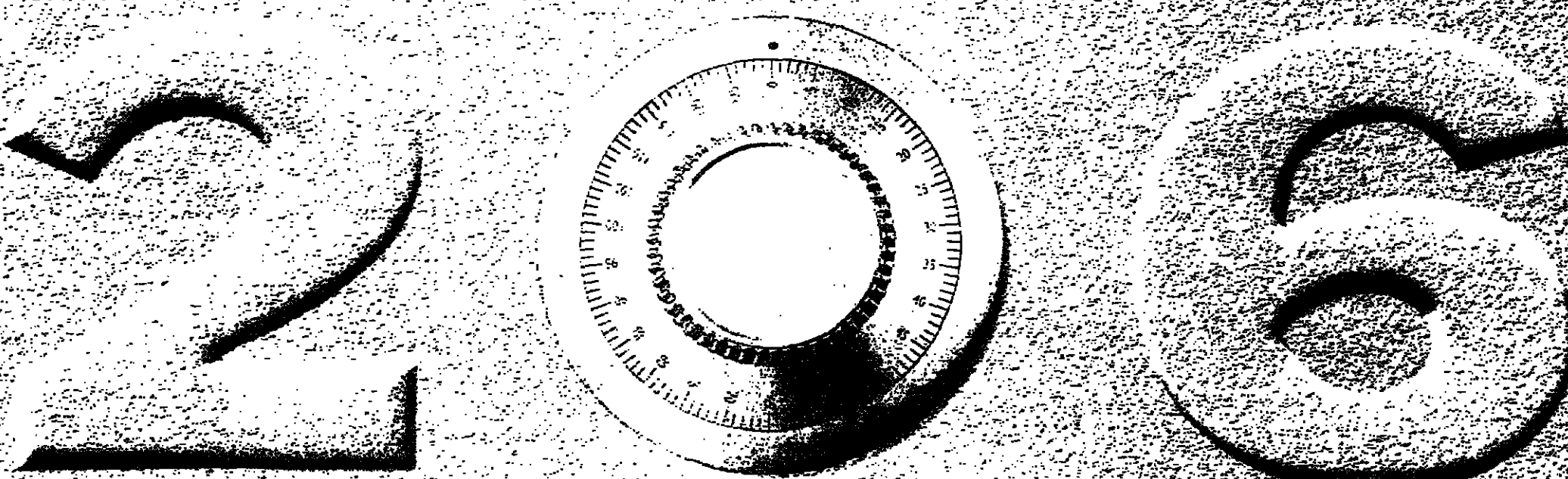
Survivors of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster met in Liverpool to discuss legal action against solicitors who represented them in claims against the police. They say poor legal advice led to compensation payments that were too small.

#### Infants 'at risk'

Newborn babies are being treated with untested drugs, said a paediatrician. Professor Imit Choonara of Derbyshire said that babies were often given untested drugs and higher dosages than recommended of other medicines.

British girls  
'raped' on  
school ski

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# British girls, 15, 'raped' on US school ski trip

By GILES WHITTALL in MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA, AND TIM JONES

TWO British girls allegedly raped during a school ski trip in America were being comforted by their parents last night. The girls, both aged 15, said they were plied with alcohol and drugs and assaulted during a party at the Mammoth Lakes resort in California.

The chairman of the governors at their Midlands grammar school said an investigation would be launched to establish how the girls could have been placed in such danger when under the supervision of teachers.

"What happened out there is a staff nightmare, a parents' nightmare and indeed everyone's nightmare," he said. "The girls must be exhausted and worried, and we hope to provide them with all the help they need. It really has been a traumatic experience."

He confirmed that the girls were among a party of 120 pupils from the school, and had not been travelling separately.

When the children and staff arrived at Heathrow yesterday aboard a scheduled Virgin Atlantic flight from Los Angeles they were met by police, who escorted them via a rear

exit to coaches which took them home. Staff refused to speak to reporters, other than to say they had been told not to comment.

The girls are understood to have been raped on Tuesday after being taken to a party in a flat by boys they met at Grumpy's restaurant, a fashionable meeting place in the resort, about 200 miles from San Francisco.

Jim Gustafson, of the Mammoth Lakes police, said that the girls spoke of several juveniles and young adults being at the party, where they had been served alcohol and offered marijuana. The two were in a "very, very distressed state" when they made their complaints.

He added: "The victims told the officers they became intoxicated to the point where they were allegedly sexually assaulted by two other partygoers. The girls were able to show the officers where the party was, which led to the identification and arrests."

Two males, Paul Klesic, 18, and a juvenile aged 17, were charged with having sex with a victim too intoxicated to give consent.

Mr Klesic was also charged with having sex with a minor and with another serious sexual offence.

The pair — from Santa Monica — face severe penalties even if not convicted of rape, since the age of consent in California is 18.

Mammoth Lakes, California's only major ski-ing area south of Lake Tahoe, draws thousands of weekend visitors and at the time, was winding down after the long President's Day weekend.

Perched on the Sierra Nevada's east flank, it is being developed by the owners of British Columbia's Whistler resort as an international destination to rival Vail, in Colorado.

British package tourists flying into and out of Los Angeles, usually with Virgin Atlantic, already account for a large part of its midweek business.

It is not yet known whether the girls will have to return to testify against their alleged assailants.

Last night the Foreign Office said: "We have contacted the consulate in Los Angeles, but cannot confirm anything until we have spoken to both the girls and their families."



A shipwright works on Ireland's millennium flagship, the Jeannie Johnston

## Irish join forces to build replica famine flagship

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A BIG millennium project replicating a ship which transported people fleeing the Irish famine was today put under wraps until it is ready to set sail for America.

After months of open-air work, the Jeannie Johnston was covered up for the team of young workers to complete the work in time for its launch next spring.

More than 200 people from both sides of the Irish border and the political divide have been involved in constructing the 123ft-long, three-masted barque in Tralee, Co Kerry, on the southwest coast of Ireland. "We're building a flagship for Ireland," John Griffin, the project secretary, said.

"Travel abroad has been part of our history. There are 44 million people of Irish descent in America and Canada. We hope the Jeannie Johnston will bring a message of good wishes from a peaceful Ireland."

The Jeannie Johnston has come to symbolise the massive wave of emigration which accompanied the potato famine of 1845 to 1848. Out of a population of eight million, an estimated two million people died of starvation and disease and another two million boarded ships for North America.

Unlike the infamous "co-



How the replica, under construction, will look

fin ships, where dozens of those emigrating died during their passage, the Jeannie Johnston lost none of her passengers to disease or the sea.

Mr Griffin said: "It was a unique ship, a remarkable ship with a remarkable safety record and it has a very long folk tradition. Numerous songs and poems make note of the Jeannie Johnston. It was a success story."

"All the emigrants on board the Jeannie Johnston reached America and Canada. They were survivors. We are remembering them, this is a celebration of survival."

## Big Apple's bad apples will lose cars

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK'S Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, extended his "zero-tolerance" policing to drink drivers last night by authorising the police to seize the cars of anyone who fails a breathalyser test.

From midnight, police officers had the power to confiscate vehicles from drivers at the roadside if the driver's blood alcohol level was found to be above the legal limit of 0.1 per cent.

The driver will be able to get the car back only if acquitted of the criminal charge of "driving while intoxicated".

and even then the authorities may try to retain it with a civil action.

"This will be a very, very useful way to reduce even more the number of traffic fatalities in the city," Mr Giuliani said. "If you've had even one drink, you should find somebody else to drive your automobile or you should stay where you are, or use public transportation."

The new rules, the strictest in the United States, were hailed by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, a lobby group of relations of car crash victims. But civil libertarians denounced the law as draconian and promised that they would challenge it in court. The New York Civil Liberties

Union said that it was unconstitutional for the police to have so much power to decide on punishment.

Mr Giuliani's "zero-tolerance" policy, which has been spectacularly successful in cutting crime, has come under increasing attack recently after the death of an unarmed Guinean immigrant who was shot 41 times by a squad from the city's elite "street crimes" unit.

With Hillary Clinton considering a bid for New York's open Senate seat next year, however, the Republican mayor is pressing on with his politically popular crackdown on crime to position himself as a possible opponent.

## Bride killed in air crash

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

Sydney: A woman in her white bridal dress was killed on the way to her wedding in a weekend helicopter crash. The pilot, who also died, was thought to have been the groom's brother, emergency services said.

The Bell 426 helicopter hit power lines and crashed in a remote area about 18 miles from the town of Holbrook near the New South Wales border town of Albury. (AFP)

## Tyson hurls TV in jail rage

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

MIKE TYSON, serving a jail sentence for attacking two motorists, has been isolated from other prisoners after a violent tantrum in which he hurled a television set.

The incident could further jeopardise his hopes of boxing again. The volatile former heavyweight champion will face a disciplinary hearing to day over the explosion of rage. "Mr Tyson was going

through some problems on Friday night. Obviously he was pretty upset over something," said a spokesman for the Montgomery County jail in Maryland. "He threw a TV. He threw it against some bars with people on the other side."

The spokesman said that nobody had been injured, but Tyson was remanded to the prison segregation area where the prisoners spend most of the day in their cells. "He's been generally compliant and reasonable until this incident,"

the official said. The 32-year-old fighter received a one-year jail sentence this month for punching a 60-year-old man in the jaw and kicking a 50-year-old man in the groin last August after a minor traffic accident.

The prison said it had a range of penalties it could impose on Tyson, but the greatest threat is likely to be to his hopes that his sentence could be reduced for good behaviour which would have allowed him to resume his career.

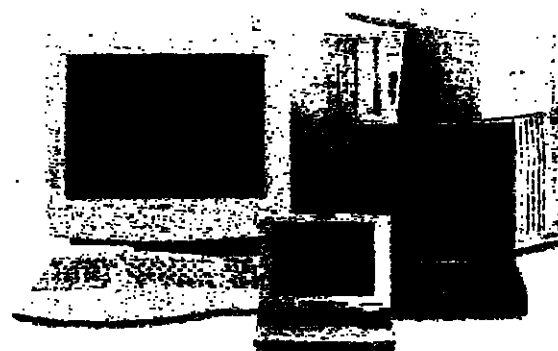
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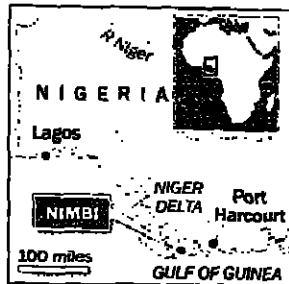
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# Nigerian tribes cut oil lines

FROM SAM KILEY  
IN NIMBI  
WEST NIGER DELTA

A THICK rainbow film of oil covered the water in the creeks leading to a Shell oil pipeline through the mangroves. At the source of the spill, a hole in the line to well head 33, gas and crude oil boiled to the surface coating tree roots in tar, choking oxygen from the water, and creating a petrochemical stench for miles around.

"You see why we are prepared to fight and die? We have no alternative. If we allow things to continue like this, we will perish anyway," Magnus Diepreye, 27, an Ijaw



tribal man, said. His colleagues have kidnapped several Britons and occupied oil rigs over the past few months in pursuit of their demands for a share of Nigeria's oil wealth, pumped from beneath their homes, farms and fishing are-

as. Hours by speedboat from the nearest town, deep inside the delta of the Niger river, the communities that live with Nigeria's vast oil reserves have seen none of the benefits, and most of the costs, of a resource that has turned successive military rulers of their country into multimillionaires, and left their people penniless.

As a senior official in Shell Nigeria admitted: "The delta is the Achilles' heel of Nigeria's future." He added: "These people are arming themselves. There will be no way that they could win, but no way the army could control the area, and that means they will be able to cut off all the oil, leav-

ing the whole country without money."

Oil earns 90 per cent of Nigeria's foreign exchange and forms about 70 per cent of its gross domestic product. The Ijaw, Ogoni, and other communities of the delta have issued warnings that unless

they see benefits from oil, none will be allowed to be pumped from their land. Little has been done by the oil companies or the central Government to reduce pollution or develop the delta where fishermen say that their catches of fish have plummeted from producing a

commercial surplus to below what they need to subsist.

"We are going to starve. Our fishing grounds have been poisoned," said John Imere, an elder in Ewelusuo village, part of the Nimbi community.

Bobo Brown, Shell's director of public affairs, himself an Ijaw, brought in to repair the company's dented image and improve community relations, agreed that the Ijaw were costing Shell two million barrels a month in lost production. But, he said: "When people's lives are at a discount, what they will do to you is anybody's guess. People are being crushed by the reality that there is no tomorrow."

## Obasanjo poll triumph

RETIRED General Olusegun Obasanjo was confirmed as the frontrunner for Nigeria's presidential elections yesterday after his People's Democratic Party took an early lead in senatorial and national assembly polls (Sam Kiley

writes). If the pattern is repeated on Saturday, when up to 40 million Nigerians vote to end 15 years of military rule, General Obasanjo will win with a large majority. But there will still be a healthy opposition in the parliament and senate.

## Bonn signs up to 'Third Way' patter

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Tony Blair's cadets proclaim the Third Way. Gerhard Schröder's ad-men market the "New Centre". Since both men are still looking for a coherent governing code, Bonn and London have found something to discuss around the dinner table. The first course is about to be served up: a joint appeal addressing issues facing the Centre Left.

The draft I have seen does not exactly hum with the excitement of a white-hot revolution and barely justifies the cross-Channel air fares of its authors. Bodo Hombach and Peter Mandelson.

It is, as expected, a rallying call for party modernisers and patters about left-wing supply-side policies, flexibility and equal opportunities rather than base egalitarianism, law and order (which in the English form has become part of the German political idiom) and innovation. A section on education and training is so swaddled in Third Way Speak ("investment in human capital") that I had to abandon it in mid-sentence to go for a walk with the dog. But then the document was not written for me.

It has two targets: foreigners who are to be persuaded of the universality of the Third Way and, at home, social conservatives who stubbornly cling to redistributive economics and the magical power of the state.

The foreign audience includes Danish, Swedish and Dutch Social Democrats who are seen as the most natural allies: open, market-oriented and reluctant to throw money at the unemployed. The domestic audience is old Labour and its German equivalent.

The message is clear: tribal or class-bound politicians are finished. Little wonder that Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister, was so keen recently to hawk an article to the British press demonstrating that he was Blairite in spirit and in word: we are all modernisers now. Cynics say the "New Centre-Third Way" rhetoric is opportunism with a human face. If so, that face belongs to Herr Hombach who is Herr Schröder's right-hand man. It is sad that Herr Hombach has lost his direct counterpart, Mr Mandelson.

There were many parallels between them and, as their work on the Anglo-German Third Way project showed, they were an almost perfect match. Both are campaign strategists of shimmering brilliance. This

strategic energy rather than their spin-doctoring talents placed them at the heart of the Third Way: and after winning the war they were required to win the peace. Both enjoyed the company of businessmen and were distrusted by unionists. Both understood that their authority derived from their leader and their key task was to unburden the leader of the detail of government.

The Hombachs and Mandelsons are most at home in presidential systems and so they try to lift their leaders above the daily quagmire and disconnect them from their ungrateful parties. In the past fortnight Herr Hombach has flown to Washington to devise a plan to compensate Nazi slave labourers, he has ensured that a German engineer will not be stoned to death in Iran and this week, no doubt successfully, will steer employers and unions into talks on an "alliance for jobs".

Herr Hombach has just come under attack for the way he financed the building of his home. When the ideological dialogue between Britain and Germany was entrusted to these two fixers it was plain that their true brief was to shape a new style of European politics. The preponderance of centre-left governments in Europe has only highlighted the lack of a coherent left-wing idea: the Right still has contours; the Left does not, except in certain political cultures such as the French.

British and German musings about the Third Way are aimed at marginalising French socialism as a factor in European politics. That is Germany's true interest in the Third Way debate: it is looking for ways to ease the corset of the Franco-German relationship.

However, Mr Mandelson's departure has taken some of the steam out of this process and it is just possible that the Anglo-German working group may peter out after the joint declaration has been published.

## What Gibraltar wants comes first, says Cook

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday sought to defuse tension with Spain over Gibraltar, but he told Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister, that Britain would let nothing override the "democratically expressed wishes of the Gibraltar people".

The one-hour meeting in Luxembourg was the first between the ministers since Spain stepped up pressure on the British territory last month after a dispute over the seizure of a Spanish fishing vessel.

Mr Cook told the Spanish minister that tight new Spanish border controls with the Rock were "unacceptable in a modern-day Europe" and Britain could not accept a frontier clampdown imposed for political purposes.

The Foreign Secretary also rejected the bulk of a Spanish complaint to the European Commission that Gibraltar had failed to implement 66 European Union directives, mainly concerning financial services. Only eight directives had not taken effect there so far and they would be implemented soon, Mr Cook told the Spanish minister.

Both Madrid and London are seeking to lower the temperature in the dispute over Gibraltar as EU leaders embark on a bout of negotiations over

reforms to the Union's future finances. Tension over the status of the territory and its 30,000 population has long marred Britain's attempts to forge an EU alliance with Madrid and disrupted EU business in a variety of areas. In the latest of these, Spain is blocking new rules on the right to inspect non-EU aircraft because it would apply to Gibraltar.

Tony Blair is expected to tackle the dispute over the colony with José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, when the pair attend an EU summit near Bonn on Friday.

However, Madrid shows little sign of softening its new hard line, which is reminiscent of the attempts by the Franco regime to isolate the British colony with a clampdown on the frontier, sea transport and communications in the early 1970s.

The Brussels Commission is analysing protests from both Madrid and London that hinge on Britain's insistence on Gibraltar's status as part of the EU and Spain's reluctance to recognise this. The Commission has backed Britain in a dispute with Spain over the legality of Gibraltar-issued driving licences, but it has refused to criticise Spain for the draconian border checks.



The Slexer family from London are flown to safety by helicopter from Grindelwald in the Swiss Alps as avalanche fears ended their holiday yesterday. But thousands of others remained trapped.

Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, Princess Caroline of Monaco and several hundred other people were flown from Austria, where cut-off holidaymakers had to rely on military airlifts of food after heavy snow and rain caused disruptions and threatened flooding across Europe. The

## Britons saved from Alpine snow trap

country's major east-west railway was still closed yesterday. About 13,000 tourists were affected by the risk of avalanches in the Paznaun Valley in Austria's Vorarlberg area. Another 3,500, hemmed in by heavy snow in Swiss Alpine ski resorts — including Grindelwald and Adelboden

— paid to be taken out by helicopter. About 20,000 were trapped by snow, which has left resorts inaccessible by road or rail.

On Saturday, laghams, the biggest British independent ski operator, used helicopters to take 50 to 60 holidaymakers in and the same number

out of Ischgl, in Austria. The company has about 10,000 Britons on holidays in Europe.

Laurence Hicks, its sales manager, said the travel situation had eased with Friday afternoon's milder weather, when snow turned to rain. That had led to the reopening of the road to St Anton, Austria.

The main danger now is avalanches, because of the milder weather," he said. Switzerland remained on high alert after fresh snow overnight in the Alps.

The Swiss Army has evacuated several hundred residents from Alpine villages cut off for days, and flown in supplies to other areas.

Snow reports, page 39

## LINKS

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/1/health/1999/02/020201\\_uk\\_alps.htm](http://www.bbc.co.uk/1/health/1999/02/020201_uk_alps.htm) — The Ski Club of Great Britain.  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/1/health/1999/02/020201\\_uk\\_alps.htm](http://www.bbc.co.uk/1/health/1999/02/020201_uk_alps.htm) — "Webcams" showing time-lapse photographs from ski resorts.

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## NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

## Tuning into Groomed City

NEW Yorkers may be frazzled (this time last week Donna Karan apparently had only six outfits ready), but there's always time for a manicure, pedicure, spot of eyelash perming (don't ask). This is Groomed City and, quite honestly, it has been majorly stressful finding time for it all. Still, I persevered and I am now the proud possessor of what one of my friends calls The New York Eyebrow. She told me that she had thus far resisted the symmetrical, perfect circumference with absolutely no straggly-hairs-going-walkabout-across-the-bridge-of-your-nose that all truly chic New Yorkers have — and I felt a sucker. However, when I demonstrated how my New York Eyebrow had "opened up my eyes, framed my face" and anything else I could remember from *Allure* magazine, she promptly booked in for a session. You can tell a lot about a society from its attitude to eyebrows. Thin and arched is always a sign of a social backlash (see grunge); pronounced and bold is counter-culture (see punk). Very expensive and prized is, well, New York, a town where people are expected to preen every last millimetre of flesh.

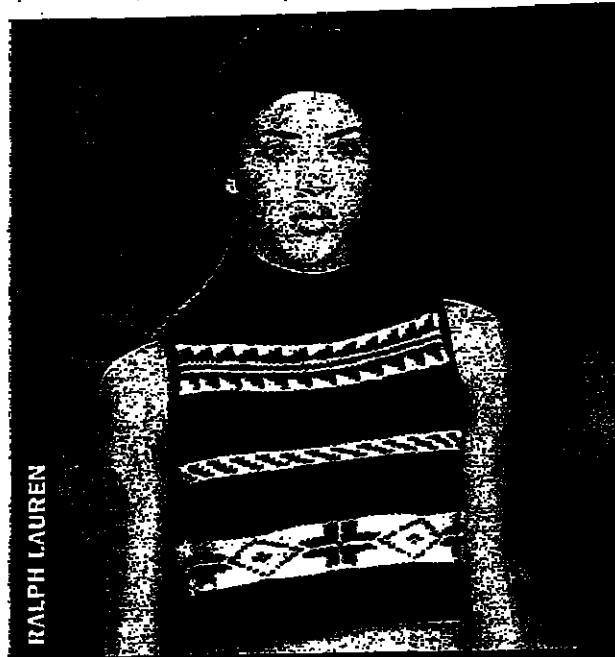
ONE of the places to head is John Barrett's, atop Bergdorf Goodman, one of Manhattan's most chic stores. New York's glossy posse flock to this temple, not just for the spectacular views of Central Park, or the slick, cream and mahogany interior decor by the Irish architect (and best friend of Madonna) David Collins, or even because a cut with the main man is £225. They go because John Barrett, ex-washer-up in Lyons Corner House, one-time purveyor of dubious souvenirs on the corner next to Liberty in Regent Street, is wonderful, full of Irish-blarney charm.

He pops up all the time on television and in magazines, dispensing wisdom about lowlights and the perils of Botox, styling Helena Bonham Carter's hair for the Oscars, overhauling the cast of *Friends* and so on. He's also a great hairdresser. I know this because he used to cut my hair in London when he wasn't a star (the difference being about £200). The really startling thing is that he will call you the day after an appointment to tell you that he has been thinking over things and perhaps you should pop back for a few more streaks at the front. If he were a mere human being, one might be tempted to get him to a shrink, but he's a hairdresser, so it's perfect. What's really clever about him are the computer sockets next to the manicure and pedicure stations. It's brilliant and so very New York — plug in your laptop, whip out your toes — and fall asleep. Next month Barrett is coming to London for four days. He'll be cutting hair at Harrods from March 16-19. All proceeds go to RAPT (Rehabilitation of Addicted Prisoners) and to ChildLine. Telephone 0171-730 1234 for details.

I DON'T think Linda Tripp has any problem with The New York Eyebrow. Her makeover was something of a *cause célèbre* here last week. Blonded, bouffanted and heavily airbrushed, her beatific visage beamed out of newspaper advertisements trailing her "First live CNN prime-time interview". ILO Day Spa, housed in an airy 19th-century Georgetown house in Washington, where resident make-up artist Kent Lodmore has worked wonders on Hillary Clinton, Elizabeth Dole and Tipper Gore, can take some of the credit for the transmogrification of America's least popular frump into a blonde cutie who wouldn't look out of place reading the news on *Good Morning America*. However, as followers of Liz Hurley, Paula Jones, Hillary Clinton *et al* know all too well, nothing works so well in elevating a woman from so-so to stunning as that gruelling process known as the whiff of scandal.



MALANDRINO



RALPH LAUREN



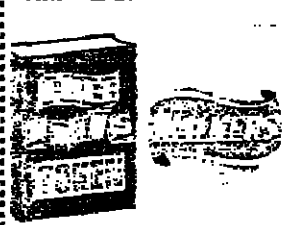
MICHAEL KORS

## DOUBLE TOKENS ALL THIS WEEK

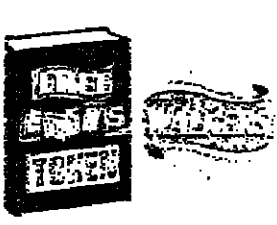
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DIANE VON FURSTENBERG  
New York  
fashion designer

Describe your personal style  
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You made your name with the Seventies slinky wrap dress — and now the Nineties relaxed. Yes, it's in silk and jersey and now there is a whole Diane label.

Your first husband was a prince (Prince Egon von Furstenberg). Is your life a fairytale? If it was a fairytale the Prince wouldn't have sent me out to work. I don't believe in fairytales because in life you pay for everything.

What period in fashion do you love? Antique Greece, the Twenties and anything feminine.

What piece of clothing can you not live without? My bodysuits. I wear them all year.

What is your pet hate? White shoes. In fact, sloppy shoes in general.

What is the most luxurious item that you have ever bought for yourself? My double white saitoosh (a wrap that is woven from the down of the Tibetan antelope).

which cost far too much money for me to admit.

What do you think of current trends? I just love today's fashion trends because they allow individuality.

What is your favourite shop? Manolo Blahnik and Christian Louboutin. I just can't resist shoes.

What piece of clothing/accessory would you most like to receive as a gift? A double white saitoosh in case I lose mine.

How often do you go shopping? Very seldom when I'm in New York. Instead, I always shop when I travel.

How important is fashion to you? Fashion is a reflection of our time, so it exists no matter what.

What accomplishment are you most proud of? My kids. I'm proud of them for who they are: for their generosity and curiosity.

Your parties are legendary, how are they such a success? You have to surround yourself with people who won't leave early. You can't be a good hostess unless you are a good matchmaker. And you need stars.

Is your office chic or merely functional? My office is my home. My personal life and my business life



Diane von Furstenberg

are totally interlinked, so this spills into the office.

How do you relax? I have a meditation room and I like to wander around my cacti garden.

Why do you dislike restaurants? Now that all fresh food is poisoned, the only healthy food to eat is junk food.

When are you happiest? When I am on the road traveling but knowing that I will always come back to Cloudwalk, my weekend place in Connecticut.

If you didn't live in New York where else would you like to live? Paris — I lived there for six years — or at my house in the Bahamas.

Who is your mentor? My mother Diane is the heroine of my life. She taught me how to savour it and turn every negative into a positive.

What is your style motto? Feel like a woman and really enjoy it.

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## NEW YORK FASHION WEEK



MICHAEL KORS



HELMUT LANG



MARC JACOBS

## Enter millennial woman

The best of New York fashion strides into 2000 with a sleek new line. Photographs by Simon Walker

I wasn't entirely sold on the flared mid-calf skirt, poloneck and high-heeled boots look to begin with. But at Marc Jacobs' show on the first day of New York Fashion Week, he tossed his inimitable luxurious touches into the mix.

The clothes featured some great details. The pin-tucking that rippled down the hems of his blouses (there is no other word, "shirts" does not adequately describe these Laura Ashley-esque, apparently cropped up on trousers and skirt waists) and the almost couture touch to otherwise sleek clothes. The weave of cashmere sweaters, which retail for between £450-£750 in his Soho boutique, were pretty cute, and a tan and white polka-dot skirt sent more than one New York mag-bag into a retail frenzy.

The fashionistas acclaimed the collection, but it was hard to dispel the notion that you need to be 17, tall and skinny not to look frumpy in it. Still, that was then and this is now, and in fashion parlance I have got my eye well and truly in. The man responsible for putting it there was Michael Kors. He was inspired by Slim Hawks, whose husband Howard Hawks moulded his protégée Lauren Bacall entirely in her image.

This collection was one of the week's best. Yes, the skirts hit that tricky mid-calf spot, but they weren't box-pleated. There were more of those cashmere blouses that the City has been awash with. (Is that it? Can the culmination of 20th-century fashion with its Coco Chanel, Saint Laurent, Balenciaga, Courrèges, Galliano... really be a jumper?)

And yes, there were yet more knee-high boots, this time flat and nicely weathered. But they all looked delectable.

The skirts, which were by far the sexiest take on the new A-line length, were split or wrapped; the cottons and canvases that Kors has always

Lisa Armstrong

FASHION EDITOR

favoured were rubberised for that crucial contemporary finish. And the colours — browns, camels, blacks and greys (dark cream) were enticing enough to tempt even New Yorkers out of black. Or then again, perhaps not.

Black was the new black, Tommy Hilfiger said in mock seriousness. Calvin Klein was back on it, too, as was Donna Karan. I don't think that Helmut Lang is too crazy about colour this season either, unless it's pumpkin and generally challenging. At any rate, at his show, which just to irritate everyone, was held in his store (another of those hip concrete-floors-and-blinding-white-walls joints), one of the PRs whooshed up to me and asked me to move my coat, which was on a ledge under my chair. I think the shade (lavender) was upstaging the collection.

"I got colour out of my system last season," Klein said loftily before his show. Lauren, on the other hand, had not. Having hijacked the world's remaining stock of sealed wool, he proceeded to drench it with lilac, apple green, coral, orange. The clothes — sleek, spare separates — were meant to be modern and sporty, ripe for the next century. But the combination of suburban-style colour and starkness struck a false note. Whatever millennial woman will be wearing, it's unlikely to be periwinkle.

Besides, white, as any monochrome addict will tell you, is a colour, too. It's also the ultimate luxury. "If you have a white coat," Klein points out not unreasonably, "you probably have several others to see

you through while it's at the dry-cleaners."

The other ultimate luxury, of course, is buying clothes that are so pared-down that they don't have fittings, visible buttons or hems — that look, in fact, like children's overalls. "I think that's the best clothes — they nearly always started out as workwear," says Klein. The black or white felted wools that he used lent the clothes a starkness that he played up to with simple graphic shapes and functional details. The leather jackets had fine elastic seams to facilitate movement.

"I'm designing for comfort," says Klein. "For women who have a million things to do." Donna Karan is too, but her take is more romantic: asymmetrical hems and lots of wrapping.

New Yorkers are obsessed with their busy lives. They are so busy telling you how busy they are that it's a miracle they have time to nip into Marc Jacobs. One day they'll find a way to eliminate getting dressed altogether. Meanwhile, fashion here is about constructing a uniform that signals how damn preoccupied you are. That is why Helmut Lang, the master minimalist, is forging a huge \$100 million business here. Actually, for Lang, this collection featured a lot of detailing: biker padding on the leather trousers, zips scoring through the legs of canvas trousers, feathery organza vests with funnel necks, canvas strap-bags that fit around the arm with Velcro, and dresses with neck-pillows that possibly took the concept of travel chic a trifle far.

Lang has been so copied that it's easy to forget just what an original he is. These were brilliant, hard-edged clothes, less lyrical than recently — but then it's a tough world out there. At least, when things



CALVIN KLEIN



ANNA SUI



TSE NEW YORK



RALPH LAUREN

### TRENDS FOR AUTUMN/WINTER 1999

**ANORAKS, PARKAS:** the American coat has a nylon or canvas sporty feel next winter. They are streamlined and sometimes come with detachable linings — best at Helmut Lang, Daryl K and Michael Kors.  
**FLARED Calf-length skirts:** best at Marc Jacobs.  
**SWEATERS:** the newest come just to the hip with either polo or funnel necks — best at Michael Kors.  
**BOOTS:** either with a high chunky heel — best at Marc Jacobs; or flat motorbike boots — best at Daryl K.

**ZIP-UP VESTS:** padded, knitted or in sheepskin or leather — best at Helmut Lang.  
**COLORS:** black or white — best at Calvin Klein.  
**FABRICS:** boiled wool, rubberised canvas, ponyskin, sheepskin leather — best at Michael Kors and Helmut Lang.  
**DETAILS:** top-stitching, chevron stripes and pouch bags popped up all over the place — best at Helmut Lang.

turn really nasty there's a Lang coat. They are among the best anywhere — often in canvas — but with detachable sheepskin linings and internal shoulder straps so that in warmer weather the coat can hang nonchalantly from the shoulders — so you can be depressed in luxury.

If Lang has seen the future, Anna Sui turned to the golden years of Newport's music festivals — circa 1964. Cue those Julie Christie-type headscarves that only ever looked

good on her, and lots of cute black and white smock dresses, duffle coats and not so cute crochet tanks. It looked a lot more palatable than the real thing. Sui's drawcard is her kookiness, which plays well to a certain downtown type.

She may have some competition now from Catherine Malandrino, a chic French import who opened an eponymous boutique downtown six months ago and this week launched her first presentation. Malandrino is not ob-

essed with how stressed-out she is but with making things look pretty and colourful. These were eclectic pieces — fringed jumpers, slim leather coats with knitted sleeves — with a bohemian feel and a Parisian slickness. Harvey Nichols and Browns have snapped them up.

And much as I love the idea of Calvin fronting over his customers' laundry bills, it was a relief to note that there wasn't a scrap of white in sight.

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# Electric, sexy and right on song

**OPERA: Rodney Milnes is riveted by Raymond Gubbay's masterly *Tosca* at the Albert Hall**

Poor old Raymond Gubbay; he will have to do better than this. If he is going to maintain his reputation as a People's Impresario locked in mortal combat with a nasty elitist establishment and ghastly old critics obstinately out of touch, then he will have to stop engaging directors as skilful as David Freeman, designers as superbly imaginative as David Roger, and conductors such as Peter Robinson who really know their way about operatic scores. Heaven knows, I have sat through a few *Toscas* in my time, but it is many a year since Puccini's "shabby little shocker" (or highly polished, grandiose moral fable, according to taste) kept me on the edge of my seat like last Thursday's at the Albert Hall, by any standard a serious, utterly professional and thrillingly theatrical show. Sorry about that, Ray, but do feel free to quote my opening sentence in any publicity.

**'Freeman does not shirk the sex and sadism content'**

Where to start? With the sound. Since it was on that subject that a gauntlet was thrown down in these pages last week when Hilary Finch interviewed Bobby Aitken, the sound designer. Amplification — or whatever you care to call it (I rather like Aitken's "acoustic intervention") — is a science still in its infancy, and Aitken seems to have taken several steps forward even since last year's universally praised *Butterfly*. It is much more "directional": whatever is done to them, the voices still seem to emerge from the singers, not from some disembodied sound-heaven: when they turn away, you know they have turned away but you can still hear them. Dashed clever.

And you can hear the words, which is important in what is essentially a musical thriller: every twist and turn of the plot is made clear by the near-rap scene could only be described in the decent obscurity of a learned language. From which it may be gathered that Freeman does not shirk the sex'n'sadism content: the torture scene is played out in his persuasive, programme note, in which the names of Puccini, Allende and Tarratino also crop up. Nor is spectacle shirked: the entry of Scarpia and the *Te Deum* procession should be studied closely by every aspiring director — perfectly timed *coups de théâtre*, both of them — and the end is no anticlimax. Bullock has to run up 37 steps to reach the summit of David Roger's Castel Sant'Angelo before somehow finding the breath for her last phrase and the fatal leap. By then the audience was as breathless as she was. A riveting evening.



Susan Bullock as Tosca: "she believes in the role and 'lives' every moment of it — grandly diva-ish, bitchy, vulnerable"

**VISUAL ART: Rachel Campbell-Johnston is dazzled by computer art**

## Can this be digital hardcore?

Only one gallery in Britain is dedicated to digital art. But two sorts of people go there: the usual gallery-going breed and the dingy-basement techno type. "The latter aren't much interested in what the artist means," says Ian Middleton of the Colville Place Gallery, "but they are fascinated by the way in which images are made."

By splicing these two viewpoints one can begin to understand why computer art is no longer a contradiction in terms. The arrival of the powerful PC gave birth to the

1990s decade of the digital. Some say it will prove as momentous as the shift from medieval imagery to Renaissance perspective. Graham Howard, the leader of a computer-related design course at the Royal College of Art, agrees. "There is a relationship with the Renaissance," he says, "in that technology opens up a new array of possibilities."

Traditionalists are floundering in a multimedia marsh, lamenting the loss of old-fashioned skills. Digital artists use computers instead of canvas, software instead of chisels. Where is the craft in the click and highlight, the drag and paste? The answer is that it lies in mental, rather than physical, aptitude. How many people can twist their minds round the abstract complexities of vectors and algorithms? This week a show at the Royal College of Art displays just what alchemy technology can work. Exploring the theme of museums, a group of students probe futuristic possibilities for these repositories of history. The pieces are as teasing as they are didactic. Playfully linking metaphorical and literal ideas of illumination, a

## Echoes of heaven

An entire evening of verse anthems, even by the master of the genre, Henry Purcell, might seem too much of a good thing. Surely this is the programming of a compact disc rather than a live concert? But to the credit of Robert King and his King's Consort, their Wigmore Hall event titled "Purcell at the Chapel Royal" never outstayed its welcome.

In the first place, the anthems were separated by a handful of devotional songs. Secondly, Purcell's music is full of such infinite variety that you constantly marvel at his imagination. And thirdly, all the musicians, both singers and players, had the style in their bones, so that every Purcellian idiosyncrasy was exploited to expressive effect.

The event aspired to authenticity on several counts. The pitch adopted was A=466, well above the usual Baroque pitch and even modern concert pitch but believed to be the operative standard of the chapel. King also pointed out that the Chapel Royal was of a similar size to the Wigmore Hall, and (rather more dubiously) that when choristers were absent through sickness, the numbers may not have far exceeded the five we heard.

Among the notable features of Purcell's verse anthems are the elegiac introductions of *I Will Give Thanks and Behold*, *Now Praise the Lord*, the tranquil endings of *O Sing Unto the Lord* and *Let Mine Eyes Run Down With Tears*, and the magnificent, ubiquitous word-painting. The Consort were alert to all such delights, as to the outlandish dissonances and dancing rhythms throughout.

The role of Purcell's star singer John Gostling ("that stupendous base", as he was described by a contemporary) was taken by Peter Harvey, who rose (and descended) to the challenge admirably. Carolyn Sampson was the excellent soprano in the devotional song *Thou Wakeful Shepherd*, and James Bowman a considerable vocal partner as well as soloist. In an age that seems to see a new counterpoint every week, Bowman remains a sovereign exponent of the art. His rendering of the celebrated *Evening Hymn*, sensuous even in extolling the joys of heaven, boasted not a hackneyed phrase. Celestial, in every sense.

This week in THE TIMES



### DANCE

Northern Ballet Theatre translates Bizet's sizzler *Carmen* into dance in Leeds  
OPENS: Tonight  
REVIEW: Wednesday



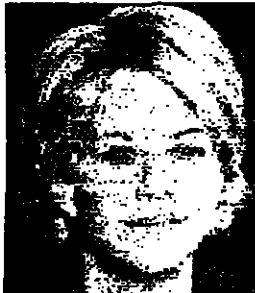
### THEATRE

The gloriously inventive junk opera *Shockheaded* returns to the Lyric  
OPENS: Tonight  
REVIEW: Wednesday



### MUSIC

Man of many parts: Lorin Maazel conducts and plays with the LSO, Barbican  
CONCERTS: Wed, Thur  
REVIEW: Friday



### FILM

Meg Ryan finds unlikely love with Tom Hanks on the Net in *You've Got Mail*  
RELEASED: Friday  
REVIEW: Thursday

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## The inner limits

EVEN talented artists are in danger of getting stuck on the treadmill of their own gifts. Consider British choreographer Jeremy James. A student at the Royal Ballet School in his teens, he switched from classical to contemporary and subsequently carved out a notable career performing with the likes of Rambert Dance Company and DV8 Physical Theatre. Since 1993 he has headed his own group.

Last week Jeremy James & Company kicked off the *Spring Loaded* festival, London's annual paean to the diversity of British modern dance. While the triple bill at The Place showcased James's strengths, it also revealed his limitations.

Tammy Arjona begins *Juice* with a solo of quick, careful steps and precision contortions. A serious and virtually boneless gamine, Arjona collapses in upon and then resurrects herself. Her scooping, twisting moves are echoed by the serene Diana Loomore. A third woman, Sine Nilsen, slips in both to copy and disrupt their patterns. Sardined together, they are like human cogs in some crazy machine. Visually, parts of *Juice* suggest a cinematic crazy quilt. Caught in blobs and bands of

**DANCE**

Jeremy James  
The Place, WC1

rainbow colour, the five dancers (including Sonja Pardo and Lee Boggess) start with a back-to-basics geometry of linear and circular gestures. Activities are driven into ever higher gears by Marco Fargion's cyclical piano score, punctuated by a child's voice blurring out numbers. *My Big Pants*, meanwhile, is something of a Jamesian signature piece. Four dancers wriggle, hip-flick and roll their way through distinctively task-oriented choreography.

With their stylised street garb, industrial/psychedelic/chubland soundscapes and smart urban veneer, James's dances are definitely contemporary, but they remain frustratingly unfulfilling, seemingly finished before they get to wherever they were headed. You wish the work would cut sharper and deeper, or that its maker could cut loose and dare to mess things up.

DONALD HUTERA

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES



# You'll never walk alone, Mr Blair

Like Napoleon, the Prime Minister always needs his marshals

Tony Blair is a good deal less powerful than he is usually portrayed. The common image is of a dominant Prime Minister, presidential in style, who seeks to control everything that moves or speaks. In reality, Mr Blair faces many constraints, to his frequent frustration.

Most critics confuse style with substance, presentation with policy. Many Blairites do have strongly centralist tendencies and deserve the label "control freak", epitomised by the term "on message". Mr Blair does cultivate a presidential image. He is the People's Tony above the partisan battle and the Prime Minister above the ministerial debate — with no nonsense about equals.

This style has fostered both record approval ratings and the extraordinary dislike, even hatred, towards him by many on the Right and the hard Left. That feeds absurd fantasies, such as Lord Belfort's comparison between Mr Blair and Hitler in these pages a fortnight ago. Not only was this deeply offensive to the victims of Nazism, tarnishing Lord Belfort's past scholarly reputation, but it totally distorted what is really happening.

Critics have made much of the Blairites' interventions on behalf of Alun Michael in Wales and against Ken Livingstone in London. Lord Belfort predictably referred to "Gauls in waiting". But this confuses the clumsy, and probably counterproductive, short-term manoeuvres by the Blairites with the likely long-term results of devolution.

Indeed, if the new Scottish and Welsh leaders are to survive, they will have to distance themselves from Mr Blair. By the end of this year Donald Dewar and Mr Michael will probably be involved in public disputes with central Government.

The main charge is that Mr Blair ignores the Cabinet and Parliament in pursuit of what Professor Peter Hennessy has called a "commander-in-chief" model. There is something in these criticisms. The Commons does not feature high on Mr Blair's list of interests, though he has been voting more often than a year ago. The relative unimportance of the full Cabinet is shown by the very defensiveness with which its members claim that their weekly sessions now sometimes last at least an hour, up from the 30 to 45 minutes of a year ago, and the even shorter initial meetings. However, Cabinet Ministers can often be seen at Westminster before 11.30am, suggesting that discussions that in the past used to last until lunchtime are no longer particularly taxing.

The decline in the significance of these meetings has been under way for a long time, as Lord Butler of Brockwell, the former Cabinet Secretary, noted in his Attlee Foundation lecture last Thursday. During the late 1940s, Cabinets met for an average of 87 times a year, with 340 papers being formally circulated. In the early 1970s, there were still an average of 60 meetings a

year, with 140 memoranda. But by this decade, the Cabinet has met no more than 40 times a year, with only as many as 20 papers circulated in one year. So, in Lord Butler's words, the Cabinet has "reverted to something close to what it was in the late 18th and 19th centuries — a meeting of political friends and colleagues at which issues of the moment were informally reported or discussed". Under Mr Blair, the discussion has been even less structured.

Lord Butler argues that the Cabinet has become too big and too insecure to have a real discussion, while the really important issues are probably too urgent to fit the stately timetable of Cabinet consultation. Nor does he really believe this matters. For Lord Butler, the main features of Cabinet Government are less the weekly meetings, nor even the patchy framework of committees. For him, the key is ensuring that all the various views and interests within Whitehall on an issue are taken into account before a decision is taken, that the "widest range of experience and wisdom" is brought to bear, and to create "a common sense of teamwork and bonding".

The Blair record here is uneven. Not only is there little sense of collective decision-making but many ministers do not feel part of a team — which could create problems for Mr Blair when the political going gets tougher.

Even the original idea of a weekly pre-Cabinet session of the big four (John Prescott, Gordon Brown, Robin Cook and Mr Blair) has withered away, though the Prime Minister talks a lot to each of them. Mr Blair's preferred model is less presidential, in the sense of a centralised imposition of the Downing Street will, than bilateral. He and his advisers work directly with affected ministers, seldom consulting others. This applies particularly to Northern Ireland, Europe, welfare reform, health and education. In many of these, the Treasury is also closely involved, so it would often be more correct to talk of a tripartite model. On the economy, however, Mr Brown prefers to keep discussion within the Treasury, apart from his frequent private talks with Mr Blair.

The Prime Minister faces a powerful departmental interests. These have to be managed and can seldom be commanded. Mr Blair has wanted to strengthen the centre of government to improve implementation and to tackle cross-departmental issues such as social exclusion. But that falls well short of a presidential model. He can work only through his ministers. So the main question, less constitutional than political, is similar to the one that Margaret Thatcher faced — finding and promoting able allies to key ministerial posts. Even Napoleon was dependent on his marshals.

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Never mind Boris Yeltsin. The whole of Russia is ill. There is hardly a well person this side of the Urals. Horrible new strains of tuberculosis are sweeping the country and the flu epidemic seems to have confined almost everyone to bed. Not that this isn't in any case where most people want to be as the snow sets about its hideous three or four months of grim, grey melting, but that is beside the point.

Unfortunately, being unwell here means being subjected to the various available cures, most of which involve honey and vodka in huge quantities. If you see someone in a restaurant ordering only a bottle of vodka and a bowl of honey which they spoon into their mouth like ice-cream, you can be sure that this person has a cold or flu.

Of course, simply taking these hugely reliable medicines orally



## The puppets' chorus

In Wales, Scotland and London Blair is betraying the cause of democracy

I greatly admire the Welsh. They are a Celtic nation, with many Celtic attributes: subtle, poetic, imaginative, sometimes confusing to the simple Anglo-Saxon mind. Twice this century, they have produced a politician of high genius, David Lloyd George and Aneurin Bevan; more often their politicians have excelled at middle play, with intricate combinations, but have lacked a striker who could bring in the goal.

Wales has been treble insulted by Labour policy on devolution. In the first place, the Welsh electorate did not much want devolution, and voted for it only by a narrow margin. In Scotland, many people voted for devolution as a step towards independence; and an independent Scotland, perhaps Scandinavian in character, would be a perfectly reasonable national objective. A much smaller proportion of Welsh people think that independence makes a realistic aim for them.

The Welsh assembly has been given much more limited powers than the Scottish parliament. For reasons which were always hard to understand, the Labour Government rejected the obvious constitutional solution of creating parliaments with identical powers, which would have had the same relationship to the United Kingdom. The Scottish parliament will at least have the potential to be a proper parliament for domestic affairs; the Welsh assembly is nothing like that. So far as its powers go, it is no more than a grandiose parish council.

The third insult has been the way in which the choice of leader for the assembly has been manipulated. When Tony Blair was chosen as leader of the Labour Party, the trade union section of the electoral college operated "one man, one vote". When Alun Michael was chosen Labour leader for Wales, the majority of the trade unions returned to the old block vote principle. Three trade union leaders were sufficient to cast the votes which gave Alun Michael his victory.

The whole campaign was made more disreputable by attempts, by Tony Blair himself, as well as by Alun Michael, to pretend that the national and the Welsh electoral systems had been the same. Both men were, indeed, chosen by an electoral college with three elements: one worked on the "omov system" for the constituencies and the unions; the Welsh college allowed block voting in the trade union section; the block votes were in fact decisive.

Because of the failure to give the Welsh assembly equal powers, Welsh devolution can only be regarded as more cultural, and less political, than Scottish. What did Tony Blair have against Rhodri Morgan? He is a well-educated man; like Tony Blair, he went to St John's College, Oxford, but he also went on to Harvard. In Labour Party terms, he is a moderate. He had the confidence of two previous Labour leaders, Neil Kinnock and John Smith. His trouble is that he is too Welsh, but naturally the Welsh rather like that.

I have nothing against Alun Michael, except that he did not give straight answers about the block vote. Yet, he did not strike me as being in the least visionary, or particularly Welsh by temperament. He is simply Blairite, in the same way as Alistair Darling or Stephen Byers. But they sit for Edinburgh Central and Tyneside North; they do not have the responsibility of representing Welsh culture or the Welsh people. They represent the devolved assembly under Downing Street control were confined to Wales, where Labour is traditionally so strong, it might be regarded as only a local issue. It is much bigger than that. The same policy of devolving constitutions without devolving power is seen in Scotland and in London. The Scottish list of

Labour candidates has excluded Dennis Canavan, a popular constituency Member, thought to be unreliable in Blairite terms. Many Scottish electors, like many Welsh ones, may come to the conclusion that the only way to make devolution a reality is to vote for a nationalist party. In Scotland the SNP is likely to benefit, and its leader, Alex Salmond, is already denouncing the proposed puppet regime in Cardiff.

In London, Mr Blair seems determined to exclude Ken Livingstone from becoming the Labour candidate for mayor even if that means risking losing the election. Mr Livingstone, like Rhodri Morgan, is undoubtedly the most popular candidate, with the voters. If yet another selection is rigged to stop the most popular candidate becoming the Labour nominee, then London will face the same challenge as Wales or Scotland. Will Londoners be prepared to vote for some Labour substitute, chosen for Blairite orthodoxy, rather than for the candidate who is far ahead in the polls? Mr Livingstone has said that he will not stand as an independent. Perhaps he will stick by that, but perhaps he will become so angry at being excluded, by a manipulated process, that he will reconsider his options. I would not blame him if he did. The London mayoral election will be held in May 2000, when Labour is likely to be less popular, under the alternative voting system, which gives effect to the second preferences of the defeated candidate.

Apart from fringe candidates, the first to be eliminated will almost certainly be the Liberal Democrat. If Ken Livingstone did choose to stand as an independent radical, he would almost certainly be one of the three leading candidates on the first ballot. He could expect a majority of the Liberal second preferences, more Conservative second preferences than any official Labour candidate would get, and almost all the official Labour second preferences.

Given his popularity, and the volatility of the London electorate, many of whom regard themselves as independent rather than party voters, he would be quite likely to win. Strangely enough, the new electoral system in Wales, though different, could eliminate Alun Michael. He is only a list candidate; if Labour does well, there will be no top-up from the list, he will not become a member of the assembly, and Rhodri Morgan will presumably become leader after all.

The Welsh leadership decision echoes in Scotland and re-echoes in London. It has damaged confidence in the process of devolution, and will inevitably strengthen the cause of nationalism and of London radicalism; that is not at all what Mr Blair had in mind. Yet the real damage is to the Blair project itself. The election of Alun Michael has made the two most damaging criticisms of the Blair regime seem more convincing than they were before. These are the allegations of "cronyism" and that Tony Blair is a "control freak". They were already beginning to be believed, just as Tony "sleaze" came to be believed in the Major years. Such ideas are hard to get rid of.

Yet the damage is more profound than that. Mr Blair did not win his 1997 landslide by accident, or even by a skillful spin campaign. The voters believed that he was a special kind of politician, a bit more open, a bit more honest, a bit more of an idealist than most. They also believed that the three "D" words, Devolution, Diversity and Democracy meant something to him, that they were more than slogans — they were real beliefs. Neither in Wales, Scotland nor in London does that now appear to be true.

Tony Blair seems to think that democracy means that people must be free to vote so long as they vote for candidates he approves, not for Rhodri Morgan, not for Dennis Canavan, certainly not for Ken Livingstone. Mr Blair is prepared to use traditional and devious old Labour means to make sure that the Welsh choose his kind of leader, the Scottish his kind of candidate, Londoners his kind of mayor. Saturday's election in Wales was a defeat for Welsh democracy; it may have been a tactical victory for Tony Blair as a politician, but it was a strategic defeat for the ideals which gave him power in the first place.

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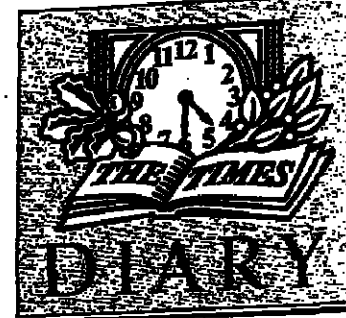


William Rees-Mogg

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comment@the-times.co.uk



## Pond life

LILLY LANGTRY'S Little Venice love pad is causing local blushes once more. The white stucco mansion, in which Miss Langtry cavorted in scandalous fashion with King Edward VII, has been bought by Michael Flatley, a professional dancer, for £4.7 million. To the concern of neighbours, who include Edward Fox, David Bowie and Joan Collins, Flatley — a self-styled Lord of the Dance — is remodelling the house à la Chingford.

Pleased by early innovations (a carpet depicting his own face is particularly striking), Flatley wants to build a vast swimming pool in the historic gardens. He has sent plans to a vexed Westminster Council, which has thrown them over to the local residents' association (patron: that doyen of Essex Men, John Julius Norwich). Local toils are cross. For Flatley to win approval for his "improvements", he will have to use fancy footwork.

● THERE must be something potent in the royal water. A pond fashioned by the Prince of Wales at Highgrove with the help of Miriam Rothschild is flourishing. Its water flowers and rushes have attracted ten species of dragonfly. The secret? It was built by the sewage bed.

## Pear shaped

THE Marchioness of Worcester has suffered another blow. After her hubby, the Marquess, withdrew her gracious invitation to eco-urchins to set up on his lawns, the former actress Tracy Ward (below) admits that her organic vegetable business has gone belly up.



Badminton Natural Vegetables operated from a walled garden on the estate but our Tracy has learnt that eco-economics are confusing. "I have a super gardener," she says. "But profits are non-existent."

● THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH was on form at a reception at the weekend when presented with a hamper by Philip Lader, the American Ambassador. As Philip perused the pork pies and canapés, he was heard to mutter: "Where's the Southern Comfort?"

## Long stretch

LORD LONGFORD has lined up a successor, Jonathan Aitken. The prisoner's friend bought Aitken his last supper recently, before the former Cabinet Minister's impending stint in the dink. "He could become the greatest penal reformer of our lifetime," ventures Longford. Aitken told Frank that he is braced for prison, which he is determined to make "a positive experience".

Conversation was uplifting. "In my recent adversity," remarked Aitken, "I have found my religion not a crutch to lean on but a challenge to rise to." He concluded that there can be "no forgiveness for oneself without first truly forgiving others". Who, I wonder, does he have to forgive?

SAINSBURY



● THE clumsy gagging of the Stephen Lawrence report by Jack Straw might never have happened if his special adviser, Ed Owen, had seen the sympathetic play about the murdered teenager. He attempted to do so last week, but was forced to cancel when the troublesome report landed with a thud on his desk.

## High hurdle

ATTEMPTS by Mark Phillips to become a self-supporting adult have been thwarted. His plans to build an equestrian centre at Aston Farm, his pad in the Cotswolds, have been hit by local objectors and the meddling local council. I trust one of the grumblers was not his ex-missus, the Princess Royal, who lives up the road at Gatcombe.

JASPER GERARD

There has been some talk of mashing up an unspecified part of pig's intestine with honey and taking that three times a day until you are better.

Never mind Boris Yeltsin. The whole of Russia is ill. There is hardly a well person this side of the Urals. Horrible new strains of tuberculosis are sweeping the country and the flu epidemic seems to have confined almost everyone to bed. Not that this isn't in any case where most people want to be as the snow sets about its hideous three or four months of grim, grey melting, but that is beside the point.

Unfortunately, being unwell here means being subjected to the various available cures, most of which involve honey and vodka in huge quantities. If you see someone in a restaurant ordering only a bottle of vodka and a bowl of honey which they spoon into their mouth like ice-cream, you can be sure that this person has a cold or flu.

Of course, simply taking these hugely reliable medicines orally

is the least of your worries. There are those who recommend soaking bits of rag in hot vodka and melted honey and then wrapping the marinated pieces of material around your throat and chest for days. There has also been some talk of mashing up an unspecified part of pig's intestine with honey and taking that three times a day until you are better. In either case, you would have good reason to claim to be well again long before you actually were, thus giving great satisfaction to the crazed crone who had suggested the treatments in the first place.

All kinds of forest berries need to be mashed into a bitter "mors", to be drunk as often as possible, and very nice it is, too, but no substitute for a course of antibiotics and a Beechams Hot Lemon. This, unsurprisingly, is the problem.

The heavy reliance on old

wives' remedies here is not simply a romantic nostalgia for the pastoral idyll, nor the Russian equivalent of the Western backlash against conventional medicine. Russians put their faith in herbs and tree barks because the cutting edge of Western medicine is available to so few of them.

There is a terrible shortage of the most basic medicines, and what is available is often imported and increasingly expensive. There are now chemists in Moscow whose pharmacies do not look a lot worse than Boots, but a packet of Neurofen would clear out the average monthly pension and the number of people who can afford the imported preparations is vanishing into insignificance.

Anna Blundy



Prisons complain of a drugs shortage so dire that they cannot begin to cope with the TB now affecting two-thirds of incarcerated people in Russia.

Clinics in Moscow, catering largely for Westerners and very rich Russians, put the emphasis on "rehabilitation" for serious illness, usually meaning a mad dash for Finland, although they can stabilise a patient and treat non-life-threatening complaints. If you are rich enough, their doors are covered in the stickers of the various credit cards they accept and they all ask how you will be paying before they ask how you are. The old phone book entry for the American Medical Centre read "24-Hour Service. Hard Currency".

If a child is ill, one is forced to face the fact that Russian children's hospitals relieve you of your baby at the door and you do not see the child again until it is better and you are allowed to come and retrieve it. This is the case even when serious operations and extremely long stays are involved. The childcare advice gleaned from the Russian desk staff at the various Western clinics does not differ much from that provided by the average old woman in the street — there is an obsession with the wearing of masks even around children who are already ill (perhaps simply to amuse them?) and it is considered vital to make the child eat garlic to fight infection.

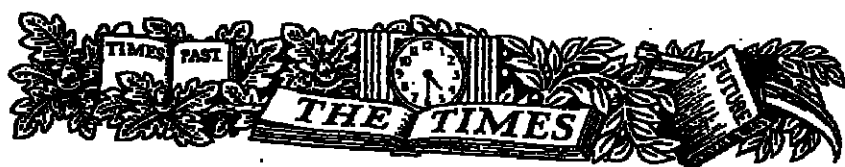
In an emergency, calling an ambulance would be the last rather than the first resort. Walking around Moscow and seeing the ancient, rusting ambulances (pathetically labelled

"quick help") languishing in traffic jams and pushing in vain against the walls of slush on the street is disheartening in the extreme for anyone weighing up the possibility of calling one. It is by no means unheard of for underpaid paramedics to supplement their incomes by picking up fares in the ambulance after hours.

Naturally, there will be those who say that Russia has the best doctors in the world, that the healthcare system here rivals the most sophisticated in Europe — but they would be wrong. Russian doctors are cripplingly underpaid and the hospitals are catastrophically ill-equipped and underfunded, leaving most people to put their faith in the kind of natural remedies that might ease a sore throat, but will do nothing to fight pneumonia.

comment@the-times.co.uk





## SPUN OUT

This time Straw should have walked on by

When a government bans the media from reporting a story it must have good reason to do so. No such reason supported the Government's decision to prevent the reporting of a leaked copy of the inquiry into the death of Stephen Lawrence. Although it took the Home Secretary less than 24 hours to realise the error of his ways, his initial overreaction was that of an administrator that too habitually depends on management of the news.

Previous governments have, sometimes with good reason, banned the dissemination of information which might have endangered national security. The contents of Sir William McPherson's report plainly was a fit of pique that the carefully planned "spin" for the launch of the report on Wednesday has been upset. Jack Straw may have had perfectly good reasons for wanting to present the report in a particular way. He presumably hoped this week's debate would focus on the issue of race relations and the modernisation of the Metropolitan Police. There was nothing that he could do about the leak. But now, thanks to his cack-handed overreaction, he has distracted attention away from the police handling of Mr Lawrence's murder onto the Government's handling of the Press.

Mr Straw claims that he was motivated by a desire to protect Mr Lawrence's family and the Metropolitan Police, and a respect for Parliament. Not one of these reasons stands up to scrutiny. Members of Mr Lawrence's family said they had no objection to the press reporting the story. The police have already been subjected to months of criticism which they have been unable to rebut as their inquiry was still underway. The Government has regularly treated Parliament with disrespect verging

on contempt. Numerous reports and announcements have been leaked in advance. Ministers regularly unveil new policies in front of television cameras or radio microphones before doing so at the dispatch box.

Not only was the Home Secretary's case defective, his action was ineffective. The injunction had all the qualities of a sieve. Hundreds of thousands of copies of the newspaper containing the story had already been printed and distributed before the injunction was imposed. The news had already been broadcast on national bulletins. The injunction did not apply in Scotland nor could Mr Straw prevent the story being disseminated on the Internet. By lunchtime yesterday, the Home Secretary was properly under fire for an impetuous and rash act.

In Opposition, new Labour prided itself on its devotion to open government. Much was made of a Freedom of Information Act for which Mr Straw is now responsible, and of incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. Now ministers appear to support freedom of expression so long as it is not critical of the Government or does not throw a spanner into the works of Whitehall's well-oiled news management machine.

The murder of Stephen Lawrence raises a series of disturbing issues not least the vexed question of how the canker of deeply embedded racism can be excised from the police. It would be deeply unfortunate if Mr Straw's inept attempt to gag the news backfired and made reform more difficult. Last week, the Home Secretary was lecturing the public not to "walk on by" when confronted with a public misdemeanor, but to intervene. On this occasion he should have had the good sense to turn the other cheek.

## RANTING AND RAVING

Nobody is listening to Mugabe anymore

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe has long been intolerant of criticism and prone to blaming others for his own mistakes. The IMF, he claims, withheld money to manipulate Zimbabwe's economy for its own ends; the independent-minded judiciary is made up of British spies; white farmers (who earn 40% of the country's foreign exchange) are colonial oppressors. Perhaps only World Jewry is absent from his list of usual suspects.

External attempts to arrest Zimbabwe's descent into the economic depths have frequently been blocked by his intransigent tongue. Now he has dashed all hopes of next month's planned handover of the latest tranche of IMF balance-of-payments support. In a state television interview on Saturday night, on the occasion of his 75th birthday, he appeared unsettled, nervous and defensive. And in an incoherent fifty minute rant he made an unstrained, near-paranoid attack on the forces which have stopped his country descending into chaos. Suddenly he seemed not just intolerant, but ineffectual. At least his previous assaults were delivered with a certain amount of brio. Now, his near-hysteria seemed to reinforce what many had suspected. No-one is listening to Mr Mugabe any more.

His unreason is a product of a strangely encouraging development. Despite the opposition's scanty representation — only three MPs are not from the ruling Zanu-PF — the last few months have seen a huge range of people using peaceful, legitimate forms of protest. Their power is increasing. Mr Mugabe's recent attempts to create an even more malleable political process were blocked by the National Constitutional Assembly, a group of 40 predominantly black non-governmental organisations. Zanu 2000 was formed in Matabeleland

two months ago. Drawing on memories of ethnic oppression in the early 1980s, as well as resentment of Zanu-PF, it already has huge support. And the black-run Zimbabwe Integration Project educates rural people in the constitutional rights on which Mr Mugabe is so happy to trample.

Six months ago no-one would have believed that Zanu-PF might lose next year's election. But the political landscape has changed completely. The township population, its living standards far worse than under the Smith regime, has long craved law and order and an end to corruption; soldiers in fighting order patrol the shanties at the slightest sign of dissent. But last month's detention and torture of two journalists from the Zimbabwe Standard — for having the temerity to report on intra-Army opposition to Mr Mugabe's absurd, unwinnable adventure in the Congo — has turned the black middle class against Mr Mugabe. Any anti-government demonstration — by constitutional activists, trade unionists, even lawyers — is cheered by passers-by. Only the kleptocrats stand behind him. And they are indulging in an orgy of theft as if aware that their days in power are numbered.

There is a real danger that these same kleptocrats might choose to delay the inevitable by holding a rigged election under martial law. There is a strong precedent: Mr Mugabe only ended the UDI era's state of emergency in 1991, just in time for him to host a Commonwealth Heads of State conference. But Mr Mugabe and his party are so discredited that outlawing opposition would simply radicalise it. His intolerance and irrationality have created the situation where he faces a stark choice: reform or resign. The tragedy is that he may be without the political or personal strength to do either.

## MODERN STANDARDS

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award shifts with the times

Youngsters' standards have changed a great deal since the Duke of Edinburgh's Gordonstoun days. Short trousers and icy morning plunges are no part of a modern teenager's routine. Without change, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, inspired by the Duke's own experiences at school, could decline into an outmoded middle age. The sort of enterprise it tries to foster can still smack of a hearty postwar lifestyle. For today's urban teenager, computers are more relevant than compasses, on-screen skills are just as formative as interfacing with a cliff. But most importantly, individual interests and passions can prove much more inspiring than prescribed projects. For teenagers struggling to forge their personalities, these should be fostered not discouraged.

Today, organisers announce that the rules of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award are to alter in order to get back in touch with today's teenagers. Such proposals accord with that principle of flexibility long considered one of the strengths of the scheme. Originally intended to attract participants from all walks of life, the scheme was supposed to mix youngsters from school groups, colleges, cadet units and detention centres and encourage in them principles of leadership and enterprise. Recently, however, research has suggested that increasingly it has become the preserve of the middle classes and — for

boys at least, more perturbing still — it has been dominated by girls.

The problem stems from the introduction of a "skills" section to the scheme two years after its 1956 launch. This, at first, was specifically for girls who were clamouring to compete for what had been, at the outset, a boys-only prize. The sexes were segregated at the beginning. But with Sixties expectations of equality, the two awards were merged.

Patience is a virtue which hot-blooded boys often lack in adolescence. To pass the skills section of the award, candidates must devote at least an hour a week to a subject chosen from a prescribed list. And male teenagers, apparently, are not naturally adapted to such perseverance. For all their strength, stamina or practicality in the field, they are beaten by that particular girl power of dogged persistence. At a self-conscious age when "cool" is a cardinal asset, boys are deterred.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award still holds its value in the contemporary world. Quite apart from its admirable social principles, it offers young people a sense of adventure and achievement. It would be sad if such timeless attractions were fenced in by fusty strictures intended for an outmoded age. Youth culture is built on shifting foundations of fashion and taste. And if old institutions are to cater for it, they must make every effort to stay young.

## Straw's proposal seen as 'sinister'

From the Director of the Schizophrenia Association of Great Britain

Sir, Jack Straw's proposed legislation (report, February 16) that "dangerous and severely mentally disordered individuals from whom the public are not properly protected" could be locked up for an indeterminate period if it were thought they had the potential to act in criminal ways, even though they had not at that time committed a criminal act, is quite the most sinister statement I have heard in this country.

The proposed legislation is spine-chilling and must be resisted. If it were enacted severely mentally ill people suffering from schizophrenia and their families would never be free of the fear that it would be the easiest thing in the world for a psychiatrist to change their diagnosis to psychopathy, so that they could be locked up for an indeterminate time, having committed no criminal act.

Hospital must remain the only place of sanctuary and treatment for all the mentally ill. All of them are potentially treatable, whatever the diagnosis, including that of personality disorder.

Yours sincerely,  
GWYNETH HEMMINGS,  
Director,  
Schizophrenia Association  
of Great Britain,  
International Schizophrenia Centre,  
Bryn Hyffryd, The Crescent,  
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2AG.  
February 16.

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, During the 26 years I was a Supreme Court judge I sometimes had to deal with an offender whom psychiatrists, in reports to the court, had described as having an untreatable severe personality disorder which could not be dealt with under the Mental Health Act.

They never defined what they meant by such a condition. I inferred that the person upon whom they were reporting lacked any moral sense and was insensitive to, or unable to appreciate, the harm which his conduct did to his victims. This might have been genetic in origin or the consequence of upbringing or circumstances.

Much more often I had to deal with offenders who did have a moral sense and who, of their free will, chose to offend because they thought that they would benefit from doing so, no matter what harm they would do to their victims. In language seldom used these days, they were wicked.

Should not the wicked be sentenced at least as severely as those with severely disordered personalities, perhaps more so? This will not apply under the Home Secretary's proposals for indeterminate sentences (which might be for life) for the latter, and fixed sentences for the wicked. These proposals may please many members of the public. But are they just?

Mr Straw will probably have difficulty in persuading Parliament that he has found a statutory definition of severe personality disorder which would not apply to some Members.

Yours truly,  
FREDERICK LAWTON,  
1 The Village,  
Stoke Newington, London SE16 5JX.  
February 16.

From Mr Harry Smith

Sir, I read with dismay of Jack Straw's initiative to detain those with potentially dangerous personality disorders before they have committed any crime, and am put in mind of recent proposals requiring those working with children to disclose "relevant non-conviction information" (report, later editions, December 15, 1998).

The former betrays a lack of respect for fundamental human rights. The latter betrays a lack of faith in our criminal justice system.

Yours faithfully,  
HARRY SMITH,  
(Undergraduate),  
St John's College,  
Cambridge CB2 1TP.

From Mr B. K. Levy

Sir, Magna Carta says: "No free man shall be taken or imprisoned save by lawful judgment of his peers..."

Compulsory reading for the Home Secretary?

Yours etc,  
B. K. LEVY,  
Enterprise Chambers,  
9 Old Square,  
Lincoln's Inn, WC2A 3SR.  
February 17.

From Mr Lawrence Parkyn

Sir, May I take this opportunity to offer Mr Straw the services of a company which I am considering forming — "Gulags 'R' Us" — to provide suitable accommodation for the increased population of detainees.

Yours,  
LAWRIE PARKYN,  
1 Medway Close, Barugh Green,  
Barnsley, South Yorkshire S75 1NY.  
February 17.

From Mr John Taylor

Sir, The Home Secretary proposes to lock up people who are a danger to the general public. Could this be the Government's attempt at self-regulation?

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN TAYLOR,  
9 Well View Road,  
Kimberworth, Rotherham S61 2AU.  
February 16.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Echoes of a former foreign policy

From Professor Emeritus D. Cameron Watt

Sir, Surely there are two Simon Jenkins who write for you. The one, as J. K. Stephen's parody of Wordsworth has it, is "of the deep". The other "of an old half-witted sheep".

Prof-Jenkins writes on matters of domestic concern — trenchant, well thought and argued, evidence of wide experience, reading and thought. Deutero-Jenkins writes on foreign affairs. His main models appear to be those prior masters of *Times* editorials in the 1930s and 1940s. Mr Geoffrey Dawson and Professor E. H. Carr — believers in their different ways in the do-nothing approach to international problems, believers too in the doctrine that foreigners do not read British newspapers and that nothing they may do or write can lead to misunderstandings of British opinion and willingness to act.

Deutero-Jenkins (today, for instance, asks why we should do anything about the massacres in Kosovo, or the sufferings of the Kurds. Apart from the point that the present Kurdish position has a good deal to do with Lord Curzon's and Mr Bonar Law's misjudgments in 1922

(when the latter wrote an influential letter to your journal arguing that Britain should not and could not afford to play "policeman to the world", and Atatürk's new Turkey incorporated large numbers of Kurds in its eastern borders), both Serbia and its neighbours and Turkey wish to become members of the European community with a small "c".

This implies that they must adopt standards of behaviour which are acceptable and defensible by the standards of their European neighbours, imperfectly applied though those latter may be.

As for Sierra Leone, Deutero-Jenkins should recognise that we have direct financial and commercial interests in that unhappy country.

None of which implies that the present official British policy is either wise or well judged. It does imply that inaction is abdication.

Please, Mr Jenkins, put your second personality back in the closet with the ghosts of Dawson and Carr.

Yours etc,  
D. CAMERON WATT,  
London School of Economics and  
Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2A 2AE,  
February 19.

## Turkey and the Kurds

From the Ambassador of Turkey

Sir, During both the Cold War and the Gulf War, Turkey was a staunch ally of the Western world, sometimes at considerable cost to itself. We are currently Britain's largest trading partner in the whole of the Balkans, Near and Middle East and southern Mediterranean. Around a million British people visit us each year.

Yet during the last few days it has become obvious that much of the British media feed on myths and untruths where Turkey is concerned. In reporting the return of Abdullah Ocalan, no newspaper or TV station that I know of — with the exception of *The Times* — has emphasised his record and the reasons why he is going on trial. Few reported, for instance, that his arrest occurred because even the Greek officials sheltering him found it completely impossible to stay under the same roof as him.

The violence of pro-PKK demonstrators, people who pour petrol on the police, was played down. Their hostage-taking was hardly condemned. PKK attitudes were made to sound much more conciliatory than they in fact are: PKK leaders have regularly spoken about having a revolution in the whole of Turkey and destroying all the political parties which exist there today.

Many of the top people in Turkey in

every walk of life are of Kurdish background and always have been. Many of the people fighting the PKK at every level, are Kurdish. There is a drive to channel resources to south-eastern Turkey for economic regeneration, and the capture of Ocalan and the defeat of the PKK will speed the process. Few of these facts have been widely reported.

This partiality has shocked many observers and is bound to leave serious question marks in the mind of the Turkish public. Our two countries are partners and allies. A substantial section of British opinion seems actively to support armed terrorism and lawbreaking, and even to endorse the notion of the forcible partition of a friendly European country.

Those who take this line — and again I exclude *The Times* from their number — are simply fostering violent militancy among the emigrant groups in Europe who staged the demonstrations. These groups are now part of British and German society. If they are given false expectations and encouraged to drift towards ever more desperate extremism, it is Britain and other Western European countries that will have to live with the consequences.

Yours sincerely,  
OZDEM SANBERK,  
The Turkish Embassy,  
43 Belgrave Square, SW1X 8PA,  
February 21.

## Fact and fiction on TV

From the BBC's Controller of Editorial Policy

Sir, I wish to clarify any doubts your readers may have as a result of your report (February 13, earlier editions) on the recent changes to the BBC producers' guidelines on the portrayal of real people in drama.

The BBC is not about to sanction "sensationalised portrayals" nor has it "quietly" scrapped its guideline. It has, however, made clear that there will be certain circumstances, clearly defined, where we consider it would be appropriate to proceed with a portrayal even though a particular individual has not given consent.

At its best, drama based on real-life situations can provide a powerful and illuminating insight into subjects. However, it is a drama form which must be used judiciously and which must always carefully balance the rights of the individual portrayed

with the freedom of creative expression.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP HARDING,  
Controller, Editorial Policy,  
BBC,  
Broadcasting House,  
Portland Place, W1A 1AA,  
February 18.

From Dr David Bates

Sir, After the recent revelations about the *Vanessa Show* (letters, February 13 and 18) and now about *Countdown* (report, February 19), I fear it is only a matter of time before those responsible finally admit that shows such as *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street* are nothing more than a fiction peopled by actors.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BATES,  
109 Limes Road, Hardwick,  
Cambridge CB3 7XU.  
david.bates@dako.co.uk  
February 19.

## Fair deal?

From Mr Ralph King

Sir, Drinking alcohol can become a dependency with miserable results. It should be subsidised. Smoking tobacco is addictive and causes cancer, heart disease and early death. It also should be subsidised. The comfortably well off, who can afford foreign travel, should be subsidised at the expense of the infirm and the less well off. The more often they travel, the more they should be subsidised.

If you wanted to market this outrageous collection of ideas, you would call it "Duty Free" (report, later editions, February 18).

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. KING,  
1 Station Cottages,  
Longhurst, Morpeth,  
Northumberland NE61 3HY.  
rak@ralphking.freemove.co.uk  
February 18.

From Professor Emeritus Felix Weinberg, FRs

Sir, Will not the vast spaces shortly to be released in all the Heathrow terminals by the abolition of duty-free shopping render any plans for a fifth terminal unnecessary?

Yours faithfully,  
FELIX WEINBERG,  
59 Vicarage Road, SW14 8RY,  
February 19.

Sport letters, page 33

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## Call to rid Lords of its priests

From the General Secretary of the National Secular Society

Sir, The UK is alone among European countries and leading Western democracies in having (in the bishops' *ex officio* representatives in the legislature.

In its White Paper on "modernising" the Lords, the Government justifies the retention of the bishops for the transitional period as it wants the Church (of England's) perspective to be "represented on all occasions when it would be particularly valuable". The Government also states that our society "has citizens [shouldn't that be subjects?] of many faiths and of none [my italics]. We shall be looking for ways of increasing the representation in the Lords of other religious traditions."

Retaining the English bishops disadvantages the third of the population who do not believe. Being unable to muster even three quarters of a million communicants, the C of E cannot justly claim to be representative. Adding further faiths will turn the Lords into a sectarian synod.

I urge those who really do want modernisation to persuade the royal commission considering these matters to recommend removal of all *ex officio* religious representatives in the modernised second chamber, so that we can enter the 21st century having made a further step towards democracy.

If such a recommendation were made, we trust that the Government, despite its stated views and those of individual members of the Cabinet, would be prepared to give effect to it.

Yours faithfully,  
K. PORTEOUS WOOD,  
General Secretary,  
National Secular Society,  
25 Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL,  
February 18.

## Over and out

From Mrs George Llewellyn

Sir, May I add a word about your leading article and correspondence (February 12 and 18) on the Morse code. My father, Captain R. J. B. Bolitho, who was an inventor and wireless expert, recognising that every Morse code operator had a rhythm which was as peculiar to them as their handwriting, devised a method (taped) of punching this signature on to tape: this made it possible to separate genuine messages from those sent by the enemy using codebooks taken from captured agents.

A valuable dossier was also built up of German wireless operators whereby ships, of which the *Bismarck* was one, could be located.

Yours faithfully,  
LOVEDAY LLEWELLYN,  
Nethercott Farm, Oakford,  
Tiverton, Devon EX19 9EU,  
February 19.

## Period residence

From Mr Graham R. Dunn

Sir, The scorn poured by Mr Guy de la Bédoyère (letter, February 11) on your report that the Romans had arrived in the Lincoln area "about 42BC" is only partly fair.

The "des res with a slice of history" which was the subject of your report could well have been simply the home and business-centre-in-Britain of an early merchant adventurer, from which goods would have been either sold — money was in use in Britain even in pre-Roman times — or bartered for goods to be later exported to Rome or wherever. Lincoln, at the eastern end of the Fosse Way and close to the Icknield Way, would have been ideally placed for such a venture.

Yours sincerely,  
GRAHAM R. DUNN,  
19 Park Court,  
North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 9AN,  
February 16.

## The English identity

From Mrs Rosemary Kirk

Sir, In 11 years in England I have never encountered one negative reaction to my Scottish accent, although I have received many interested and positive comments on it. What English person living in Scotland can say the same? Regrettably, the eagerness of many of my fellow Scots to criticise their southern neighbours at every opportunity is only confirmed by your recent correspondence (February 9, 13, 17; see also report, "English couple sue 'racist' Scots", February 18).

Married to an Englishman who accepts responsibility for half the housework and half the childcare, I could make a few blanket judgments myself — but I will leave Scottish wives to draw their own conclusions.

Yours faithfully,  
ROSEMARY KIRK,  
30 High Beech Close,  
St Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 7TT.  
rosemarykirk@senlac.com

From Dom Alberic Statpole, OSB

Sir, There is the old adage: "An Englishman is a self-made man, who worships his maker on Sundays."

Yours faithfully,  
A. J. STACPOOLE,  
Ampleforth Abbey, York YO62 4EN,  
February 19.







**FATHER WALTER LINI**

Your obedient servant,  
**GEORGE A. TOUCHE,**  
 Carlton Club, Feb. 20.

Peppard, Oxfordshire. Grand Charity for the Relief Chest of the Argonauts Lodge, New Masonic Samaritan Fund, Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, MS Society, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Royal Star and Garter Home and RNLi; £2,000 to the Walton and Primon Yacht Club; £1,000 to the general fund of the Argonauts Lodge.

**John Ianston Dee**, of Croxson, Ulceby, North Lincolnshire, left estate valued at £1,104,209 net.

He left £1,000 to the parish church of Croxson.

**Gordon George De Vine**, of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, left

She left shares in her estate to the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, the RNLI and Northampton General Hospital Charitable Funds.

**Lawrence Alexander Lafone**, of Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,677,343 net.

**Edward William Wallaker**, company director, of Surbiton, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,482,982 net.  
**Frank Webster**, of Darlington, Co Durham, left estate valued at £1,118,047 net.

shock from the fall, and stated laughter of his followers, that suffering from senile decay, and the habit of imagining things happened — a failing, I may share by some politicians.

letters telling of and complaining to the Home Secretary.

An elderly last East-end clergyman day last I received

mother of an  
writes: "On Tues-  
severe blow on the


our obedient servant,  
**GEORGE A. TOUCHE,**  
 Club, Feb. 20.







**LETTER**



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CONTENTS OF VOLUME, NUMBER AND DATE



## CRICKET

# Indian board to consider future of Eden Gardens

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN CALCUTTA

PAKISTAN returned home as conquering heroes yesterday while the cricket authorities in India began to assess the implications of the first game in the Asian Test Championship (ATC). The agenda stretches way beyond defeat by their fiercest rivals. After the disgraceful crowd scenes at Eden Gardens on Saturday, both the future of Calcutta as an international venue and plans for India to play a reciprocal visit in 2001 are in serious doubt.

Despite the embarrassment it would cause Jagmohan Dalmiya, the president of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB), the largest ground in the world, with a capacity of 100,000, can expect to lose Test status for a punitive period after the third outbreak of violence in four years.

Play was held up for more than an hour last Friday after the dismissal of Sachin Tendulkar in unfortunate — though legitimate — circumstances, but imminent loss appeared to be the sole motivation a day later.

Suggestions that a Pakistan player had gestured provocatively towards the crowd were not supported by television evidence and denied by Shehryar Khan, the tour manager. India resumed on 214 for six chasing a target of 279, but lost three wickets inside the first

five overs of the final day for the addition of 17 runs.

The dismissal of Kumble prompted a minority of the 50,000 spectators to throw water bottles, fruit and stones on to the outfield while others lit fires in the stands. More than three hours passed before play could finally resume.

After discussions with Bengal state politicians, the police decided to clear everyone bar VIP guests, journalists and officials from the stadium, making liberal use of the *lathi* sticks as they went about their work. Forty-seven people were arrested, five policemen taken to hospital and 19 spectators

treated in the medical unit in the pavilion.

For seven minutes and ten balls — the time taken before Shoaib yanked Prasad — Test cricket was played in ignominy, behind closed doors.

The sheer size of the stadium bowl highlighted the silence. If the manner in which Pakistan sank to their knees and prayed towards Mecca at the finish recalled their victory in Madras three weeks earlier, then the similarities ended there. No lap of honour this time, no grace in defeat from the home support.

The ICC will decide upon its course of action after receiving the report from Cammie Smith, the match referee. Smith is prevented from commenting by his ICC brief. Anything other than suspension for the venue — even a heavy fine imposed on the Board of Control for Cricket in India — will surely represent a lenient precedent.

Dalmiya, the driving force behind the ATC, said: "The action of the crowd cannot be tolerated or supported. Even if there was an offensive gesture this response was not justified. Ultimately the game was finished whatever the circumstances and that means cricket was the winner — if the game had been abandoned it might have been different."

"Test cricket has been played here since the time of Douglas Jardine [the first Test was staged in 1934] and this has not happened in a Test here before. I do not think this is a blot on the good name of Eden Gardens but, yes, I am disappointed with what happened. I do not think Test matches should be taken away. It remains to be seen whether the CAB will want to host an international match in the future."

Khalid Mahmood, the presi-

## SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: First Innings 185 (Moh 104n 70, J Smith 5 for 40). Second Innings 316 (Saeed Anwar 185 not out, Younis Younis 56, Sirhan 8 for 85).

INDIA: First Innings 223 (S Ramesh 73, Shoaib Akhtar 4 for 71).

Second Innings

S Ramesh bow b Sachin 40  
V V S Laxman c Shoaib b Saeed 37  
R Dravid c Moh b Shoaib 13  
S R Tendulkar run out 9  
M Azharuddin c Younis b Sachin 20  
S C Ganguly c Ashraf b Wasim 24  
N R Mongia bow b Shoaib 16  
A Kumble c Shoaib b Shoaib 3  
J Srinath c Moh b Wasim 3  
S K Prasad b Shoaib 2  
S Singh not out 37  
Extras (b 10, lb 9, nb 16) 32  
Total 323

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-108, 2-134, 3-145, 4-185, 5-185, 6-193, 7-219, 8-224, 9-227.

BOWLING: Shoaib Akhtar 20.1-5-47-4, Wasim Akram 24.4-6-4-2, Ashraf Mahmood 6-23-2, Saeed Anwar 25-5-69-3, Shoaib Akhtar 4-10-0.

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and D L Orchard (South Africa).



Pakistan players kneel in prayer after their victory

## Franks sees England home

ALEXANDRA CLUB (England A won toss; England A beat Zimbabwe A by two wickets (D/L method).

IN A near carbon copy of their two previous matches, England A completed a clean sweep of limited-overs victories over Zimbabwe A on Saturday, prevailing in a contest which at one stage appeared beyond them.

If the one-day series has exposed a naivety on the part of the Zimbabweans in failing

to drive home an indisputable advantage in all three encounters, it has also been memorable for the professionalism and spirit of England.

They were once again asked to reach an eminently attainable target, a figure revised upwards to 183 in 45 overs on the Duckworth/Lewis method after a brief interruption to rain, but the loss of early wickets gave way

to a period of middle-innings circumspection. However, with Matthew Windward making 48 and Chris Read a third chirpy contribution in five days, England, apparently from nowhere, found themselves in a position from which they could launch one final bid for victory.

Paul Franks, despite losing partners, played with composure in rotating the strike to see England home by two wickets after eight runs had been needed from seven balls.



Security men clear the outfield after an outbreak of missile throwing while, below, lathi-wielding policemen chase spectators in an attempt to clear the ground

dent of the Pakistan Cricket Board, hinted that his country might be reluctant to return to Calcutta and expressed concerns about the planned home series. He said: "The danger must be that crowds in Pakistan will have seen pictures of this and think they must take revenge. That would be very embarrassing for us and we would have to do all we could to ensure it did not happen."

Pakistan demonstrated unity and purpose and thrived in tight situations, when Wasim Akram instilled confidence in his young players. India lacked such dynamic leadership. Moves are already afoot to replace Mohammad Azharuddin with Tendulkar as captain after the ATC game between India and Sri Lanka in Colombo on Wednesday.

Wasim offered a damning critique of the Indians. "They

seem to be lacking the hunger to win," he said. "They seem too dependent on Sachin's wicket, or at least that is the signal they send to rival teams. There is also the unseen pressure of expectations that seems to break the Indian team. Compared with our team, who are always egging on the bowlers, they are very passive on the field. They look like a team only when Sachin is on song."

## Dawson's defiance in vain

ALEXANDRA (final day of four; New Zealand Under-19 beat England Under-19 by an innings and 11 runs).

ENGLAND Under-19s failure to post a sufficient first-innings total on a good batting wicket ultimately cost them the third international yesterday and ensured that the series ended 1-1.

Batting the best part of a day to save the game should, on this wicket, have been possible. The majority of the

batting was poor and did little justice to the effort and skill shown by England throughout the series. Richard Dawson, the Yorkshireman, was the only batsman to offer resistance, making an unbeaten 65.

England contrived to lose wickets in pairs. Gough and Flanagan, the openers, went on 34; Bell and Carberry departed on 61 and Bulbeck and

Symington were out within two runs of each other.

There was little chance of a reprieve for England with lunch taken on 77 for six, although Dawson did well to keep the strike when batting with the tail afterwards. He and Mark Wallace, the Glamorgan wicketkeeper, put on 50 for the ninth wicket. Defeat came, though, on the stroke of tea when Bridge, the No 11, was bowled by Gillespie.

Scoreboard, page 39

## SWIMMING

## Revenge is sweet for Rolph as title race stays open

FROM CRAIG LORD IN PARIS

SUSAN ROLPH raced back into World Cup title contention at the Georges Vallery pool here yesterday when she won the 100 metres freestyle, beating Katrin Meissner, of Germany, by just 0.05sec.

On a splendid afternoon for British swimmers, the national squad celebrating five victories, Rolph timed the margin of her 54.51sec triumph as though it were an act of deliberate defiance — Meissner, a surprise late entry in Paris, having beaten the 20-year-old from Newcastle by precisely the same slender margin over 50 metres on Saturday.

The results mean that Meissner, 26, remains eight points clear of Rolph, the Commonwealth and European short-course champion, who also won the 100 metres medley yesterday, with two rounds of the 12-event series remaining.

The British champion, who at 5ft 6in and 9st 5lb is almost six inches shorter and three stone lighter than Meissner, now faces a nail-biting two days in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, next weekend with a clear mission: not only must she defeat Meissner, but she must hope that someone else finishes ahead of her too.

James Hickman, 23, faces a more relaxed time. He will not race internationally again until the world short-course championships in Hong Kong in April. If he is as good as he was here, things look promising. The Commonwealth 200 metres butterfly champion became only the second man to swim under 52sec over 100 metres in World Cup races this season. Hickman's victory yesterday, in 51.94sec, was all the sweeter for being at the expense of Franck Esposito, the Frenchman who is world long-course champion over 200 metres.

Zoe Baker, of Sheffield, added to British glee by defeating Samantha Riley, of Australia, in the 50 metres breaststroke. Baker's time was 0.01sec inside the British record set in Glasgow a week earlier.

There were further good news for British women's swimming as Caroline Smart, 16, finished second to Chen Hua, of China, the World Cup leader in distance freestyle, in a best time of 4min 8.37sec, the fifth fastest short-course performance over 400 metres in the world this season. Adam Ruckwood brought the British campaign to a happy close by winning the 200 metres backstroke in a time of 1min 57.59sec.

## SNOOKER

## Merciless Hendry puts Dott firmly in his place

BY PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY was on the brink of dispelling the frustration created by two years without a tournament win in Great Britain when he established a virtually unassailable 8-0 lead over Graeme Dott in the final of the Scottish Open at Aberdeen yesterday.

Hendry entered the concluding session requiring only one of the remaining nine frames to collect the £60,000 first prize, capture the third world ranking title of his career, lift his 68th trophy and provide incontrovertible proof that he remains a powerful force in the game.

Yet while Hendry was sure to extract enormous satisfaction from his first success in a ranking event since the Thailand Masters 11 months ago, his 6-5 win over John Higgins in the semi-finals on Saturday might have greater long-term significance.

Hendry, the world No 1 for an unprecedented eight consecutive seasons until replaced by Higgins at the start of this campaign, trailed his compatriot 4-1 and 5-3 but breaks of 106, 81 and 76 enabled him to recover to 5-5. He erased a 5-0 deficit in the deciding frame, with a 68 clearance to blue and after Higgins missed a tricky, black to a middle pocket, Hendry cut it in.

After such a fightback, it was widely anticipated that Dott would suffer. The 200-1 pre-tournament outsider had come out on top in the deciding frame for the third match in succession when he edged out Ken Doherty 6-5 in their semi-final. However, involvement in that intense battle, spanning four hours and 21 minutes, inevitably took its toll. Hendry ruthlessly exploited Dott's nervousness to open the possibility of becoming only the second player to whitewash his opponent in a final.

Dott had opportunities but missed several vital pots. Hendry stole the fifth and sixth frames with last red to pink clearances before fashioning a vintage 70 clearance in the seventh, after Dott had initiated the scoring with 60. A run of 71 in the closing frame of the afternoon further increased the likelihood of Hendry emulating Steve Davis, who drubbed Dean Reynolds 10-0 in the 1989 Grand Prix.

"Winning a title is the last ingredient in getting back to form. It would be great to go to the Crucible as a winner again," Hendry, unsuccessful on home soil since he beat Tony Drago 9-1 in the International Open final at the same venue in February 1997, said.

## ATHLETICS

## Taylor watches Tromans display heart for battle

THIRTY years ago, when British men's distance running was a proud institution, Dick Taylor was the athlete at the centre of attention. In one 11-week burst, Taylor set British records for 3,000, 5,000 and 10,000 metres, getting in just before Dave Bedford and Ian Stewart made their marks.

The year had begun modestly, Taylor finishing sixth in the inter-counties cross country championship, although he would rectify that in 1970 by winning the title. On Saturday, Taylor was back at the inter-counties, this time as a spectator at Wollaton Park, Nottingham, to watch his son, Richard.

If Taylor Jr was hard to pick out from the pack in the senior men's 12 kilometre race — he finished 54th — his Warwickshire team leader was not.

Glynn Tromans, who was born in the year that Taylor Sr was at his record-breaking best, became the first Warwickshire athlete to win the title since the old master himself.

Furthermore, Tromans is the first athlete to win an inter-counties and British cross country title after twice undergoing heart surgery. Prior to his operations, his chest would tighten while out running. He would feel short of breath, start to wheeze and his heart would thump, sometimes reaching 220 beats per minute.

As the attacks grew more frequent — he suffered 70 in all — Tromans found that, by lying flat on the ground, his heart-rate would return to normal. "People would stop in their

cars and ask if I needed help," he recalled. "I would just lay there and say: 'I am alright, thanks very much.'"

After four years of attacks, Tromans was told that he had a heart condition. He was found to have extra nerve pathways to his heart. "They had to do this welding job," he said, describing how the extra pathways were cut to leave him with only the ones he should have.

Since his second operation 33 months ago, Tromans has developed into one of Britain's most consistent cross country runners. His victory on Saturday, in an event which incorporated the British trials for the world championships in Belfast next month, guarantees his selection for that event.

Tromans has given up his job as a college lecturer in marketing to concentrate on training. However, being a National Lottery-supported athlete is to live in a cut-throat environment. Tromans depends on lottery funding, but says that if he is not among the top ten European finishers in Belfast, or if he does not break 29min for 10,000 metres this summer, he will have his funding reduced.

At 29, Tromans may be older than the average first-time winner of a British cross country title, but he is young by comparison with Dave Heath, who won his, in the short-course championship, at 33. "At last, a Great Britain vest before I am 34," Heath, who guaranteed his selection for Belfast, said just after crossing the line.

Angela Mudge was the surprising but impressive winner of the women's main race.

## Hansen maintains Lievin reputation

THE Lievin meeting, in northern France, lived up to its reputation yesterday as the best indoor competition outside the international championships and Ashia Hansen, from Great Britain, played a big part (David Powell writes).

In a dramatic climax to the triple jump, Hansen produced a winning leap in the last round when she jumped 14.81 metres to defeat Sarka Kasparikova, the world outdoor champion from the Czech Republic.

A number of best marks for the year were set, including

two which deposed British athletes. Katharine Merry, who led the 200 metres rankings in the British record of 22.83sec, gave way to Svetlana Goncharenko, from Russia, who recorded 22.73.

In the men's 300 metres, John Regis was knocked off his perch as his 20.50sec was beaten by Kevin Little, of the United States.

Gail Devers, the double Olympic 100 metres champion from the United States, clocked 6.98sec, the first woman under seven seconds in the 60 metres event this year.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

## Christie misses out on Gift final

ATHLETICS: Linford Christie, the 1992 Olympic 100 metres champion, underestimated his Australian opposition and missed out on the Botany Bay Gift final in Sydney yesterday. Christie, who won the 1997 Gift, was handicapped off one metre for the 120-metre race, but could finish only third in his heat and did not qualify for the final. "I thought, 'after four metres, I will catch them easy' and then I got halfway and realised I wasn't making any ground," Christie said. Rob Ballard, the former Olympian, won the race. Christie had to be satisfied with victory in the men's 100 yards championship.

## Proctor boosts Croydon

FOOTBALL: Doncaster Belles, who are in second place, slipped to their second women's Premier League defeat of the season yesterday, going down 1-0 at home to Croydon, who remain unbeaten in the league (Cathy Gibb writes). Tara Proctor, the England player, scored in the fifth minute. Everton, the defending champions, surprisingly lost 1-0 at home to Southampton Saints, with Anna Dimsdale scoring.

## Pampling captures title

GOLF: Rodney Pampling captured his first Australasian PGA Tour title in Sydney yesterday when he won the Canon Challenge. The Australian, 29, had a closing round three-under-par 69 to finish on 270, 18 under par, and emerge victorious by three strokes over Geoff Ogilvy. Craig Spence, the winner of the Australian Masters last week, recorded a superb final round of 64 to finish in third place.

## Henderson storms in

CYCLING: Jim Henderson, the national hill climb champion in his first race of the season, turned a one-second deficit at half-distance into a three-second winning margin from Peter Main in the Kingston Wheelers 14-mile time trial (Peter Bryan writes). Sean Yates, a Tour de France time-trial winner, was forced to withdraw because of an injured knee.

## Oxford's double helping

ROWING: Oxford, with an experimental crew stroked by Colin von Ettingshausen, the German international, defeated Molesey on the Tideway yesterday over two sprints, the first from Putney to Chiswick Steps and the second from the Bandstand to the Boat Race finish (Mike Rosewell writes). Oxford won both, by three lengths and two lengths.

### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND THE REGIONS FOR CONFIRMATION OF BYELAWS RELATING TO EUROSTAR (U.K.) LIMITED

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 67 of the Transport Act 1962 and Section 129 of the Railways Act 1993 that Eurostar (U.K.) Limited has made Byelaws and intends to apply to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions for his confirmation to those Byelaws.

A copy of the Byelaws in respect of which application for confirmation is to be made can be inspected free of charge for a period of 28 days starting from the date of this notice by appearing at Eurostar (U.K.) Limited's registered office, Eurostar House, Waterloo Station, London SE1 8SE between the hours of 0900 and 1600 Monday to Friday or at Waterloo International Station, Waterloo, London SE1 or at Ashford International Station, Ashford, Kent or obtained by writing to the registered office address for the attention of the Company Secretary.

During the 28 day period any person affected by the new Byelaws may make representation to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions by writing to him at the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, Zone 3/33 (Byelaws), Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4RP.

Dated: 22 February 1999

Victoria Wilson  
Company Secretary  
for and on behalf of Eurostar (U.K.) Limited  
Eurostar House  
Waterloo Station  
London SE1 8SE



## Kafelnikov on course to take over from Sampras as world No 1 at London event



Henman was at full stretch to make this forehand return against Kafelnikov in a final which thrilled a crowd of 8,500

## Henman finds comfort in final flourish

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN ROTTERDAM

YEVGENY KAFELNIKOV is a man with the summit in his sights. In a final kissed by some spellbinding passages, he mastered Tim Henman here yesterday to hand himself within smothering distance of Pete Sampras's crown as the world No 1. So close is Kafelnikov that he will depose the American in London this week if he reaches the semi-finals of the Guardian Direct Cup at Battersea.

The prospect is a wonderful filip for the organisers of the fledgling event. Indeed, on this evidence, only nerves can stop Kafelnikov — and he has showed precious few of those in the heat of battle. "It will definitely be in my mind. It is something I have dreamt about," the Russian said after his 6-2, 7-6 triumph. "It does not happen every day. Hopefully a lot of people will come to watch and I can be part of an elite group."

Given Kafelnikov's elevated status, it was a tribute to Henman that he extended the Russian close to breaking point in a second set resplendent with riveting tennis. Rarely have the four corners of any court sustained the barrage that both players unleashed. Interspersed within this cocktail of excellence were passes of sublime imagination and, particularly from Henman, drop shots of rare poise and daring. Fittingly, there was a full house of 8,500 to celebrate an occasion that was a ringing endorsement for the game.

It testifies to Henman's untapped potential that he denied Kafelnikov's armour without his potent first service. That weapon, so deadly in his 7-6, 7-6 defeat of Marat Safin in the semi-finals on Saturday, was strangely absent as Henman, forsaking his favoured serve-and-volley tactics, instead set about Kafelnikov from the baseline. His play reaped a handsome dividend. Henman surprising his opponent with his accuracy and power — particularly off the forehand wing.

"My serve was horrendous," Henman admitted. "but I played probably the best baseline in the world and was dictating most of the points. That gives me a lot of confidence. If I had served better, I think I'd have had a good

chance of winning the match."

These two are old foes. Kafelnikov having now prevailed in seven of their ten encounters. Yet the Russian recognised that Henman's game is developing fast. "His play from the baseline has improved very much," he said. "It always comes down to a couple of points whenever we play. This time he made some unforced errors at important times and let himself down a bit. He got a little tight, but you could not want for a better final. I wish I could play him every week — I

ov, his sap rising at the sight of the winning point, calmly snared the ensuing tie-break, and with it the match. From 3-3, he won four successive points to round off 80 minutes of thrilling entertainment. Four months ago, Henman had spurred a 5-1 lead when he played Kafelnikov in Paris. However, the detail reveals more of Kafelnikov's fighting qualities than any frailty on Henman's part.

Henman will thus remain at No 7 when the world rankings are updated this morning. He will arrive back home, if not triumphant, then certainly fuelled by the belief that he can raise his stock still higher. The game at this scaled level requires him to eliminate gifting points through bouts of carelessness. More importantly, his service still lacks the necessary consistency.

"What is encouraging is that I feel ready to take my game to a new level," he ventured after his sixth defeat in ten career finals. He has the chance to substantiate that claim, with the encouragement of a home crowd, against Jan Krosiak, of Slovakia, on Wednesday. Krosiak, accounted for by Chris Wilkinson, in the final qualifying round yesterday.

Henman and Kafelnikov are seeded to meet in the final on Sunday. Should they advance towards this projected encounter, London is in for quite a treat.

## Novotna wins battle of contrasting styles

JANA NOVOTNA, the top seed, won an exciting clash of styles and generations when she beat Venus Williams 6-4, 6-4 in the Faber Grand Prix final in Hanover yesterday.

The Czech veteran showed more composure when it mattered on her way to a convincing win over the powerful American, the No 2 seed.

"It's been a wonderful week for me," Novotna, who lost in the final last year, said. "I had beaten her already and that gave me confidence, but it was certainly not easy."

Williams, who had beaten Steffi Graf, the local favourite,

in the semi-finals on Saturday, was let down by her usually efficient service, but showed that she had more to offer than just heavy artillery, fighting out every rally and saving two match points before bowing out.

Both players had dropped serve twice when Novotna, the world No 3, produced the telling break to open up a 4-3 lead in the first set. Then a wide backhand pass from Williams handed Novotna a 4-3 lead in the second and despite wasting two match points she held her serve to win the title.

## Rusedski hopes to revive morale

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT

THE mood at the Guardian Direct Cup, which starts today in Battersea Park, London, will reflect the fact that 12 months is a long time in tennis. Tim Henman entered the tournament last year in the midst of a slump, while Greg Rusedski arrived on the back of winning in Antwerp the previous week.

This time it is Rusedski who is down on his haunches. The Great Britain No 2 is expected to drop one place to No 10, when the world rankings are updated today. And, despite reaching the semi-finals in Rotterdam last week, Rusedski's expression spoke of a man desperately short of confidence.

Rusedski was keen to accentuate the positive after his 6-4, 6-2 defeat at the hands of Yevgeny Kafelnikov on Saturday. "I played more matches last week than over the previous month," he said. "Hopefully, I can build on that in London. I am not playing the way I was in Paris in October [when he beat Pete Sampras in the final], but I am going in the right direction. I just have to start returning a little better."

Rusedski's last comment illustrates the crux of his plight. While his malfunctioning service returned with a vengeance in Rotterdam, the rest of his game deserted him. He is counting on home advantage in Battersea to revive him.

Equally disparate is the mood between Henman and Rusedski, which reached a nadir in London 12 months ago. At loggerheads then, they are now to combine in the doubles event as preparation for Great Britain's Davis Cup tie against the United States in April. The combination are in action tonight.

Henman and Rusedski are seeded No 2 and No 3 respectively behind Kafelnikov, the defending champion. This trio are joined by Richard Krajicek, the fourth member of the world's top ten, in the London field. Wild cards have been dispensed to Boris Becker, Jan Michael Gambill and Thomas Enqvist at the expense of British candidates. Of the four Britons given wild cards into the qualifying competition, only Chris Wilkinson survived his first match.

## ICE HOCKEY

## Devils kept at bay by Robins

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TREVOR Robins, the Nottingham Panthers netminder, produced a stunning display to help his team to a surprise 3-2 Challenge Cup semi-final first-leg win away at Cardiff Devils yesterday. After two successive Sekonda Superleague wins at Cardiff, including a 4-2 victory last Sunday, Graham Garden, the Panthers forward, scored the winning goal with less than four minutes left.

However, Paul Heavey, the Cardiff coach, will not be too worried by the one-goal deficit going into the return leg in two weeks' time, as his side have won all three meetings at Lower Parliament Street this season.

Vezio Sacratini deservedly put Cardiff ahead after eight minutes yesterday and the Panthers goal was then peppered as Mike MacWilliam, Steve Moria, Peter Elbroth and Merv Priestley tested Robins. But Nottingham held firm and were rewarded by goals from Mark Kolesar and Jamie Leach. Doug McEwen equalised early on in the third period, but Nottingham, inspired by from Robins, pointed late on, Garden grabbing the winner.

In the other semi-final, played on Saturday night, Sheffield Steelers trounced Manchester Storm, the league champions-elect, 5-0. Goals from Scott Allison, John Wynne, Ken Priestley, David Longstaff and Tony Hand ensured that Storm crashed to their heaviest defeat of the season while being shut out for the first time in nearly two years.

Photograph, page 39

## BOWLS

## Sanders in series of near misses

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

GRIFF SANDERS, of Devon, who hit the headlines when he was banned for ten years by his county outdoor association but has been enjoying a successful indoor season, has narrowly failed to qualify for the national indoor championships at Melton Mowbray.

After Devon's defeat by Durham in the semi-finals of the Liberty Trophy, Sanders, 26, still had two chances of getting through to the final stages of the nationals in the individual events.

Many bowls supporters were looking forward to seeing him in action, but, within sight of glory, he slipped up 21-11 in his area singles final against John Evans, a former Commonwealth Games silver medal-winner, and 26-24 in the area fours semi-final.

His run of bad luck continued and his hopes of winning the Egham Trophy disappeared yesterday, when his club, Teignbridge, lost 90-77 to Moonfleet in the quarter-finals of the national mixed inter-club championship.

In the semi-finals at Northampton on March 21, Moonfleet will play Cambridge Park, who have twice finished as runners-up, and who tipped past Folkestone, 81-80, yesterday. Concordia meet North Walsham in the other semi-final.

The Scottish Women's Indoor Bowling Association, disappointed that some of their leading players will be unavailable for the home international series in Belfast next month, turned out a full-strength side against Guernsey at the weekend and won 18-4.

## BOXING: CROWD OF 1,200 GRIPPED BY TEN-ROUND ENCOUNTER

## Future comfortable for Couch

As in the United States, women's boxing could find a niche in British promotions, thanks to the efforts of Jane Couch, the Women's International Boxing Federation and Women's Boxing Federation welterweight champion, from Fleetwood.

Couch's unanimous points victory over Marischa Sjuaw, from Holland, on Saturday dispelled doubts about whether the women's game belongs in the same arena as the men's. The contest between Couch and Sjuaw proved to be the most entertaining of the night. Almost certainly, Couch, in her second bout as a professional, was the main draw for the crowd of 1,200 at Thornaby, near Middlesbrough.

The bout was superior in every way to the inter-continental championship between Dennis Berry and David Kirk that had immediately preceded it. The performance of the women was so engrossing that the so-called "cringe factor" quickly disappeared. The technique

of both women was sound and they provided non-stop action for ten rounds. Particularly impressive was the use of the ring by Sjuaw.

Larry O'Connell, one of the judges, who scored the encounter 96-95, mopped his brow immediately after the contest and said: "That was a good fight. It'll do a lot for women's boxing."

Text Woodward, the trainer of Couch, agreed. "Jane was



Couch, right, on her way to a points victory over Sjuaw

the one they [the crowd] came to see and I think she convinced people how good women's boxing can be. She's fresh, she's a great personality and she sells tickets. That's what boxing needs." Already Couch, 29, has been offered another contest in six weeks' time in Birmingham against a German opponent.

The bout on Saturday was a hard one, just as Woodward had predicted it would be. Sjuaw was particularly effective with the jab and two-handed assaults inside. Couch preferred to rely on short, heavier blows after decking her opponent in the first round.

Couch suffered a cut just under the hairline in the eighth round which led to a tremendous onslaught in the ninth from Sjuaw, but she was unable to find a knockout blow. The workrate of Couch impressed the judges as, despite the closeness of the contest, she was unanimously declared the winner.

Couch later needed stitches, but the doctor said the head injury would not affect future performances.

## Duran descends into heavy farce

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

RESPECTED critics have been urging Roberto Duran, the former multiple world champion, to retire for years, driven as much by the memory of what had been a magnificent career as by fears for his health. They knew that the 49-year-old from Panama was in danger of becoming a laughing stock.

Last night, they were proved right as Duran, of Panama, failed to make the weight limit for his latest comeback contest in the Argentine seaside city of Mar del Plata. Organisers of his contest against Omar Gonzalez, of Argentina, were forced to cancel the bout after Duran

first weighed in six kilograms over the 77kg limit, then was declared to be 80.3kg. The event had been billed as "The Legend Continues"; instead, it began and ended in farce, with the assembled media laughing throughout the proceedings. Duran had said in the build-up to the bout that he hoped to meet his great rival, Sugar Ray Leonard, one more time, reviving memories of their great welterweight battles of the Eighties, but that prospect would appear to be increasingly remote. In contrast, one of the welterweight

champions of the modern era, Felix Trinidad, of Puerto Rico, retained his International Boxing Federation title with a unanimous points decision over Pernell Whitaker, the former six-time world champion, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Trinidad won by the impressive margins of 118-109, 118-109 and 117-110 and improved his record to 34-0 in his first bout after a ten-month lay-off. The victory also improves Trinidad's case for fighting Oscar de la Hoya, the World Boxing Council champion, in a unification bout later this year.

## Myers finds his form to punish London

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

NEVER a team to react adversely to defeat, Sheffield Sharks made London Towers pay yesterday for one of their rare blemishes. By the overwhelming margin of 89-64, the Sharks ained for the previous evening's lapse at Derby Storm to regain the joint leadership of the Budweiser League alongside Manchester Giants.

The Towers probably thought they had escaped lightly when humiliated by 34 points a month ago — the last time they met the Sharks in the Sheffield Arena. They succumbed this time to a reverse only slightly less embarrassing. Led by Terrell Myers with 26 points, Wil Johnson 19, and Todd Cauthorn, 17, the Sharks made their move, reeling off ten successive points in the second quarter to jump into a 36-22 advantage.

By comparison Myers had been a somewhat subdued figure during his team's 91-88 eclipse by the Storm. Along with Ian McKinney, the American playmaker uncharacteristically missed a three-pointer during the last 23 seconds, either of which could have forced the game into overtime.

Much earlier Bob Donev, the Derby coach, who is between two-game bans, displayed his usual lack of integrity to incur another technical offence with an ill-versed protest to the officials. The Sharks, who failed to exploit his latest outburst, nevertheless, considered that they were subjected to the raw deal. Chris Finch,

the visiting coach, said: "I am not saying it was a poorly refereed game but the referees here always referee in the style that favours Derby. This is a tough place to come."

Unless they are successful with appeals, the game was the last of the campaign for both Yorick Williams and Rico Alderson, banned for their parts in Derby's brawl at Chester last month. Williams contributed 14 points to Derby's triumph which was secured by the last of six three-pointers from Nate Reinking who finished with 24 points.

Sheffield's lousy evening was confirmed by the news that the Giants had, after all, beaten Birmingham Bullets 86-78 instead of losing by 17 points, which was the news at first relayed to them. Most prolific for the Giants in a fluctuating encounter was John White with 28 points, four more than Nigel Lloyd managed for the Bullets.

Down at the other end of the table, Worthing Bears gave Sean Loucks his first success as coach in his 29th game with a late 22-4 onslaught, that consigned Milton Keynes to defeat by 84-77.

Larry Coates and Jon Gaines shared the honours in what was a momentous occasion for the Bears with 21 points apiece. Also, near the foot of the table, Edinburgh Rocks recorded a notable victory, by 99-78 at Leicester Riders, who did, however, possess the game's highest scorer in JaRon Boone, whose 33 points were to little avail.







## FA Carling Premiership: Wimbledon's goalless run extended beyond six hours

# Frustrated Villa lose more ground

WIMBLEDON and Aston Villa mended their records, but failed to heal their spirits. They had, respectively, lost their previous three and four matches. A draw, all the same, cannot be enough to galvanise ambition. A slow subsidence is taking place, with Wimbledon faltering in their efforts to

WIMBLEDON	0
ASTON VILLA	0

by Kevin McCarthy

claim a place in European competition and Villa, now standing ten points behind Manchester United, the FA Carling Premiership leaders.

The brightness with which the visitors started was ephemeral, as if a match had been struck that would flare briefly before fizzling down to embers. Villa's handicaps this season have usually lain in a lack of real creativity in the build-up and even when they were expert in this game the forwards were not quite sharp enough to capitalise.

Wimbledon have become predictable rather than methodical, their vitality sapped by defeat in both the FA Cup and the Worthington Cup. In the weary, late days of the season, rejuvenation is hard to come by and it is as difficult to escape forlorn feelings as it is to slip out of a strait-jacket. Villa do deserve credit for suggesting, at the outset, that they might actually be escapologists.

Although John Gregory, their manager, still clings to hope of the title, he did sacrifice an article of faith. The usual three-man defence was replaced by a back four, an alteration suggested to him by the difficulties that see Rhigou recuperating from surgery and Barry, a teenager, in need of respite from the Premiership. No matter its origins, the recasting was of value to the visitors.

A formation, in itself, is never a solution, but the 4-4-2 system can encourage briskness and Villa, in

the first half hour, shed the sluggishness of recent weeks. There was a dashing quality to the attacking, despite the dis- obliging circumstances. At Selhurst Park, the two sides not only face one another, but also fight against a lamentable surface. Last Tuesday, the pitch rounced both Wim-

bledon and Tottenham Hotspur, even if the latter did win the Worthington Cup semi-final 1-0. Villa, initially, were in no need to be mastered in such a fashion. Those who believe that poor conditions favour the better players, since they have the capacity to adapt, could summon Paul Merson in evidence. In the eleventh minute, he dug his foot under the ball to send a chip over the Wimbledon defence, with back spin commanding it to halt at the feet of Joachim, who was foiled by an immaculately-timed tackle by Thatcher.

There was to be little more aplomb from the full back, soon injured and replaced. Disruption was hard on Wimbledon, who found it difficult to settle. Of course, it is difficult for a side to settle when it is so often swaying with alarm in its own goalmouth. Villa might have scored in the first minute, when Dion Dublin collected a clearance from Watson and hit a drive that was tipped over by Neil Sullivan, the goalkeeper.

After a quarter of an hour, Joachim turned away from Blackwell to feed Grayson, who was foiled by the alertness of Sullivan. Despite their rightly-prized strength of mind, Wimbledon found that, on this afternoon, no depth of character could bring them parity of esteem. In the score, of course, they did remain on equal terms.

Villa endeavoured to conduct



Joachim, who was taken off near the end of the match, stretches to get the better of Blackwell at Selhurst Park yesterday

themselves like contenders for the title, even if they are no longer described as such. Yet, they were unable to exhibit ruthlessness. The ensuing disquiet was justified since Villa, at present, experience a small countdown in each match as Dublin's condition deteriorates. His groin strain generally forces an early substitution, and although his involvement was maintained yesterday his influence waned.

Wimbledon sensed that their

moment might be approaching. Two minutes before the interval, Michael Oakes snatched Ardley's drive at the second attempt and, 12 minutes into the second half, the Villa goalkeeper made a good save from Gayle's half-volley, turning that effort over the bar.

In the 68th minute, Oakes did not so much reach the ball as find it deposited in his grasp. Euell had worked his way to the byline and his cross dropped flush on the head of

Efan Ekoku, who directed it straight to the goalkeeper. That type of a move was a rarity for Wimbledon and, despite their urgency, a lack of refinement in the build-up has brought a steady decline for Joe Kinnear's side. They have now failed to score in more than six hours of Premiership inaction.

It will therefore be especially frustrating for the manager that Hughes, his stylish left winger, is now so severely hampered by his

hernia that he was not even in the squad yesterday. He will have to undergo an operation in due course and some other form of drastic surgery is required if either Wimbledon or Villa are to revive their season.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, B Thatcher (sub: A Kinnear, 20min); M Ardley, A Roberts, R Eadie, J Euell — M Gayle, E Ekoku (sub: C Lindsay, 87).  
ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): M Oakes — S Watson, R Smith, G Southgate, A Wright — P Merson, S Grayson, I Taylor, L Hendrie — D Butler, J Joachim (sub: S Colquhoun, 77).  
Referee: P Alcock

## McManaman pays price for leaving of Liverpool

FOOTBALL supporters, even at Anfield where the howling visceral emotion of the game still pours down from the stands, are fickle friends. On Saturday, midway through the second half, in a muted kind of way that suggested they were almost ashamed of themselves, they booed Steve McManaman off the pitch.

McManaman had not had one of his better games. The wires in his almost telepathic relationship with Robbie Fowler seemed to have got temporarily crossed. His promptings were almost invariably intercepted, his runs were stopped with solid tackles.

The catcallers and the critics overlooked the fact that he created Liverpool's second goal for Michael Owen with a jink in from the flank and a short, neat pass. Complex feelings of frustration and rejection are welling up inside them when it comes to the player who is one of their favourite sons.

McManaman had already played once at Anfield since the news broke that he would be leaving for Real Madrid at the end of the season, but that was in the 3-1 victory over Middlesbrough a

fortnight ago when the supporters had no excuse to express their displeasure at his move.

In this uneven game between two struggling teams, though, there was plenty of time to search out a scapegoat for another season that seems to be passing Liverpool by and, in the end, it was McManaman who was singled out.

He did not play more indifferently than many of his team-mates, but when Patrik Berger got ready to come on in the 66th minute and McManaman's number flashed up on the electronic scoreboard, a tumultuous cheer went up around the ground followed by the chorus of boos as he trudged off.

It is bound to be a difficult time for him, this three-month spell in limbo when everyone knows that he has signed for Real but he is still playing for his hometown club. As he appreciates only too keenly, it leaves him open to suggestions that he is saving his best for Spain.

That is not McManaman's way. Apart from anything else, he and Fowler, who scored Liverpool's first drive in the first half, both know that new life may be about to be

breathed into their England careers now that Glenn Hoddle has gone and Kevin Keegan has taken over.

Keegan is known to be an admirer of McManaman, in particular, and Terry Venables, the former England coach, urged Keegan yesterday not to waste his elusive talent in the same way that Hoddle had done. In that respect, McManaman and Fowler have everything to play for. Nor should it be forgotten that in these days of players who wander from club to club like minstrels, McManaman has shown an unusual degree of loyalty to Liverpool.

The statistics prove that, with 353 appearances to his name, he has played more 100 games more for the Anfield club than any other present Liverpool player. He may only be 27, but he has already contributed enough to be considered a stalwart. It is his misfortune and that of other talents such as

Fowler and Redknapp that the majority of his time at the club has been spent in a ongoing period of painful transition from the great days of Shankly, Paisley, Fagan and Dalglish. In all those years, the rich attacking resources of the club have been undermined by an inability to shore up the defence, a trend that continued on Saturday with a result correctly interpreted by Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, as Liverpool 2 Liverpool 2.

The irony of McManaman's situation, though, is that he may be leaving just when Liverpool are on the verge of getting it right. There have been false dawns before, but Houllier seems to have the necessary mix of grit, patience and coaching ability to create a viable challenge to Arsenal and Manchester United.

Houllier absolved McManaman from any blame for a Liverpool performance that came close to allowing West Ham United to secure their first victory at Anfield for 36 years. The visitors, so heavily depleted of the 17-year-old prodigy, and Trevor Sinclair, in attack, offered little threat for most of the game but still could have snatched a win.

After a Frank Lampard penalty had cancelled out Fowler's goal and Marc Kellner had equalised Owen's deflected shot with a corner that crept straight in at the near post, Sinclair had a golden chance to steal victory when he beat the off-side trap four minutes from the end and found himself bearing down on David James. He lifted the ball over the Liverpool goalkeeper but it sailed over the crossbar.

McManaman was on the bench by then. The supporters might think he has his mind on Europe, but they will need him if Liverpool are to get there themselves next season.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — R Sörb, S Staunton, P Babb — V Hegggen, J Carragher, J Redknapp, S McManaman (sub: P Berger, 66min), S I Grimes (sub: K Beale, 77) — M Owen, R Fowler.  
WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): S Hodge — I Pearce (sub: S Lazardis, 87), R Ferdinand, S Potts — S Lomas, M Foe, F Lampard, E Benkever, S Hines (sub: M Heller, 73) — J Cole (sub: G Hoggan, 80), T Sinclair.  
Referee: N Barry

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McManaman: booed by some supporters as he left the field

## Beattie supplies raw materials

NEWCASTLE United's howlers allowed Southampton their yelps of joy. In sport, layers of sophistication and expertise occasionally unravel to bare the core of human fallibility. Steve Howey and Didier Domi were left shivering after crass mistakes had cost their team this match. With a third successive victory at The Dell, Southampton might prefer to dwell on the increasing spikiness that could keep them in the FA Carling Premiership for another year.

Pluck, however, is not half as valuable as blunders by the opposition. Newcastle were so superior at the start of this match on Saturday that the performance verged on the snooty. Rattling, one-touch moves in the midfield were followed by swooping runs on the wing as the visitors treated Southampton like yokels. Then, against all reason, it was Rudi Garcia's team who proved to be the village idiots.

In the sixteenth minute, Howey's pass back was lamentably short and James Beattie rounded Shay Given, the goalkeeper, to finish. Two minutes from the interval, Domi, left to mark the tall Egil Olsenstad, panicked when a cross was delivered and held the forward. Such incidents can be missed or ignored, and Olsenstad felt fortunate to be

SOUTHAMPTON	2
NEWCASTLE UNITED	1

by Kevin McCarthy

awarded the penalty, but it was merited. Dodd converted with a boom. Game over.

Newcastle were as confused as they were crestfallen and Howey, having brought down Beattie in the 45th minute, waited anxiously before learning that the offence would earn him a yellow card rather than dismissal. He and his team had taken a wrecking-ball to their own confidence. Dave Jones, a candid manager, volunteered the information that he knew within the opening minutes that Southampton would not play well.

The side is at least conscientious and Chris Marsden, the new signing from Birmingham City, injects his eagerness into the rest of the midfield. For his part, Beattie, broad-shouldered and quick, can tax centre backs. He was a speculative signing, taken from

Blackburn Rovers as a make-weight in the £7.5 million move that sent Kevin Davies to Everton Park. Beattie, not quite 21, has still to master the wiles demanded inside the penalty area. With a morose sort of optimism, one fan said: "He'd score a lot of goals in the first division." That proposition will not be tested if Southampton continue to pocket points at their present rate.

Newcastle, who have not won at The Dell since 1972, had best forget an afternoon of foggy thinking. Steve Clarke, a coach, explained that Roberto Solano was replaced at the interval for "tactical reasons". The introduction of Rob Lee



Howey: costly mistake

may have been intended to make the side more compact and his cross, abetted by a deflection, did bring a headed goal for Dietmar Hamann in the 80th minute. Nonetheless, the strategists disregarded the important fact that the winger had been by far the most effective figure for Newcastle.

When the match was goalless, his cross set up Alan Shearer for a header that was saved and Solano's pass put the same forward through for a chance that he could not quite take from a demanding angle. When Newcastle were just 1-0 down, the Peruvian hit the crossbar with a finely crafted free kick. Until Hamann scored, Solano's absence made for a second-half that was, in Jones's own words, "cigar time" for the Southampton manager.

Few other adversaries will be as wrong-headed as Newcastle were. With a BMW bearing a personalised number-plate, Beattie's own journeys are smooth, but Southampton still have some way to go on a rocky road.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Marshall, C Lusham, P Collier — S Rieley (sub: W Bridge, 46min), M Oakes, C Marsden, H Nachitour (sub: D Hughes, 89) — E Olsenstad, J Beattie (sub: S Bradley, 75).  
NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Given — L Charvet, S Howey, N Dicks, D Domi — H Solano (sub: R Lee, 46), D Hamann, G Speed, G Bux — A Shearer, T Hutzsae.  
Referee: G Pol

## Barnes adds weight

MOST managers in the situation in which Alan Curbishley found himself three weeks ago — in the relegation zone of the FA Carling Premiership with the most recent victory a distant memory — would have looked around for what are often euphemistically called "battlers". Instead, the Charlton Athletic manager signed an unfit, 35-year-old who was becoming better known for loud-suited television punditry and who has never been famous for work-rate.

However, he saw in John Barnes a player who had something to prove: someone who, whatever Newcastle United might think, was still capable of playing in the top division. True, Barnes's new squad number, 37, could almost be his waist size, but, even some way over his ideal fighting weight, he still has plenty to contribute.

"I thought I was coming to a club in dire straits, really, because I didn't see the spirit in the camp: all I saw was the position," Barnes said. "You'd think a manager in his position would snap at the players, but he doesn't. He's been brilliant. The biggest thing about relegation battles, or going for the championship, is pressure. The most important thing is how you handle it."

DERBY COUNTY	0
CHARLTON ATHLETIC	2

by Nick Szczepanik

"I take account of the fact that he can't move around so much, but I'll take everything else," Curbishley said. "We're going to go into a pressure situation and I don't think he's going to be overawed by it. He will still try to do the things he's good at."

On Saturday, as Charlton won their third game in a row since Barnes signed for the remainder of the season, those things included some inch-perfect passes, four distinctly average corner kicks and, perhaps most importantly, a composed approach in an otherwise scatterbrained game. He came off the bench after only 18 minutes to help to ensure that the Charlton revival continued at the expense of a Derby County side who gave what Jim Smith, their manager, described as "our worst

Premiership performance, by a stretch".

Dean Snurridge was the main threat to Charlton's third successive clean sheet with two near-post efforts and a second-half header that he put straight at Simon Royce. Minutes later, a strong run by Mills forced a corner that Derby could not clear and Andy Hunt rolled his shot just inside the far post. Five minutes from time, Martin Pringle broke away to put the result beyond doubt and lift Charlton out of the bottom three.

People began to stream out of Pride Park at that point, but they might have done better to stay and savour what might be the farewell appearance at their ground of a former great: in southeast London they are not so blasé. A recent five-side at the Charlton training ground attracted a crowd as Barnes lined up alongside Curbishley and his staff. "All the academy lads came and watched it," Curbishley said. "And I don't think they were there to see Mervyn Day and me."

DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): R Hunt — S Potts, I Simms, J Laursen (sub: K Harper, 77min) — R Dean (sub: L Bennett, 61), L Corley, S Evans, J West, A Dorset — D Skirrow (sub: P Wanehope, 61), D Burton.  
CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): S Royce — D Mills, S Brown, C Theobald — J Robinson (sub: C Mondonico, 73), K Jones (sub: A Barnes, 86), M Kinnear (sub: J Barnes, 18), N Reddell — M Angello, A Hunt.  
Referee: U Rovers

## Blackburn suffer a Rudi awakening

BLACKBURN ROVERS	1
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	4

by Stephen Wood

BEING a player with the meandering gait of Chris Waddle and the permanent perplexed expression of Darren Anderson does not necessarily confer advantages on Peter Rudi, the Sheffield Wednesday midfielder, who has played something of a supporting role in the FA Carling Premiership since an £800,000 move from Molde, of Norway, last season.

But the two goals that he scored against Blackburn Rovers on Saturday were show-stealing in their quality, providing evidence that the perseverance of Danny Wilson, the Wednesday manager, is bearing fruit.

"No", was the indignant and rather shocked response from Rudi when asked if they were the best goals he had ever scored. Back in Molde, it appears, the Norway international was a roaring success, although perhaps not as celebrated as another Molde graduate. "I used to play with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer [the Manchester United forward], he said. "It was always me providing the chances for him, so I think I helped make him a star!"

Now, at Wednesday, Rudi has players around him that can conjure up an opportunity or two. Saturday at Ewood Park was one of those days when Wednesday blew hot, for Carbone, Alexandersson, Sonner and, in particular, Wim Jonk, were just as masterful as Rudi as Blackburn went down to their worst defeat of the season.

Swift passing and movement helped move Wilson's team out of immediate relegation trouble, but pushed the home side down to within a point of the bottom three, making Brian Kidd's programme notes especially pertinent. "Our work for the season is nowhere near finished," he wrote. "That's not being negative, that's being realistic."

### Results and tables, page 30

tic. We are not in the comfort zone yet — not by a long way." After watching four goals leak through what has been an otherwise steadfast defence, the Blackburn manager was perversely upbeat. "I am not panicking," he said. "We've just got to keep running on empty after a couple of tough weeks. Whatever mood takes him, Kidd is not foolish enough to think that a run of two defeats in 14 matches automatically means that Blackburn are too good for the Nationwide League first division."

"We have been working on his running off the ball," Wilson said of Rudi. "It's nice that something you concentrate on in training actually pays off in a match. There are not many players who have an engine like Peter's, and now we'd like to see him score on a regular basis."

Sonner, purchased from Ipswich Town for £75,000, opened the scoring after 20 minutes before Rudi struck twice in three minutes before half-time. His first was a powerful right-foot shot from 18 yards after some wonderful skill from Carbone, and his second an athletic header after a breakthrough movement.

Jason McAteer pulled one back with a deflected shot midway through the second half, but Andy Booth got Wednesday's fourth eight minutes from time. "I do not know what went wrong," Stephane Henchoz, the Blackburn defender, said. "It was one of those days when you wished you'd stayed in bed."

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): J Filton — J Barnes, S Henchoz (sub: D Pockock, 89min), M Bloomer, C Dowdson — K Gillespie, J McAteer, D Dunn, D Duff — A Ward, M Jensen (sub: N Baze, 46).  
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — P Atherton, E Thorne, D Walker (sub: Biscotti, 45), A Hinchcliffe — N Alexandersson, W Jonk, D Sonner (sub: J Conan, 59), P Rudi — A Booth, B Carbone.  
Referee: A White







## Smith lends substance to Taylor's voice

Queens Park Rangers.....1  
Watford.....2

By PAT GIBSON

GRAHAM TAYLOR found his voice again on Saturday night after the latest youngsters to roll off the Watford production line had made an immediate impact to put his side back on course for promotion to the FA Carling Premiership.

Taylor has been unusually quiet lately, silenced by a throat infection that put him in intensive care just before Christmas, a more recent operation to remove his tonsils and his steadfast refusal to comment on the shenanigans surrounding his old job as England manager.

He was in full flow once more, however, as he talked about the winning goal scored by Tommy Smith, 18, from Heme! Hempstead, within seconds of his arrival as a 68th-minute substitute, even though he did not actually see it himself.

Taylor had excused himself to clear his throat in the dressing-room and only heard the roar from the Watford supporters as Smith intercepted a poor Queens Park Rangers clearance to set up a move down the right and was then on hand to steer Wright's cross just inside the far post.



Taylor: youth policy vital

Whether Smith can do that kind of thing on a regular basis remains to be seen but Taylor will give him every chance. "We had six players from our youth policy out there today," he said, "and that is how it has got to be at Watford, even if we do surprise everybody by getting into the Premiership."

Warning to his theme, he explained: "If Watford supporters think that this is a club that can spend eight, nine or ten million pounds to improve their status, they are getting above their station. They are not that type of club."

"Even if we had £50 million to spend, we could not buy the best players because they are not going to come to Watford anyway. They are going to go to the big clubs, so the whole business of youth development is of vital importance."

Watford had taken the lead in the 16th minute when a long clearance from Chamberlain skimmed off Maddix's head and Wright strode through to score with a superb volley. But QPR got back into the game through a debatable penalty on the stroke of half-time, when the referee appeared to be the only person in the ground who had spotted that Bazeley had handled the ball in the area.

Peacock scored at his second attempt after Chamberlain had blocked his initial shot, only for Smith to push QPR back into the relegation zone of the Nationwide League first division. To compound their problems, they had Maddix sent off in the 74th minute when the referee, whose inconsistency had been causing him problems all afternoon, showed him his second yellow card.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): L. Mitchell; T. Broadbent, K. Hardy, S. Morris (sub); G. Hargreaves, G. Maddix; P. Murray, M. Pugh, G. Prescott, K. Rowland (sub); L. Jerome, 70; T. Dowle, K. Gifford.

WATFORD (4-3-3): A. Chamberlain; D. Bazeley, S. Palmer, R. Page, P. Robinson, R. Johnson, A. Hession (sub); T. Smith, 68; E. Elliott, N. Wright, A. Smart, P. Kennedy.

Referee: A. D'Urso

## NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: BOLTON SECURE POINT TO MOVE INTO SECOND PLACE



Taylor, centre, the Bolton Wanderers forward, gets in front of the Birmingham City defence and heads towards goal

## Birmingham fail to cash in on manager's bequest

Birmingham City.....0  
Bolton Wanderers.....0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

TWENTY-EIGHT years ago, almost to the day, a fresh-faced Trevor Francis scored all four goals in a 4-0 victory against Bolton Wanderers. It took the teenager's tally to ten goals in as many games, the most dramatic of starts to a career that went on to embrace, among others, Nottingham Forest, Southampton, Rangers and England.

How the Birmingham City side that he now manages could have done with the same marksmanship at St Andrew's yesterday, when a goalless draw against Bolton in the Nationwide League first division could have been turned into a win, had they accepted just one of their many opportunities.

Instead, Birmingham had to settle for a point, another rung up the ladder to fifth place and

confirmation that their hopes of taking part in the play-offs are justified. Bolton, who edged into second place behind Sunderland and stretched their unbeaten league run to 15 matches, also missed their share of chances in a game that petered out into stalemate after a lively opening.

Francis barely mentioned the poor finishing, preferring to dwell on Birmingham's sound defensive work against Bolton's experienced strike force. "Holdsworth and Taylor are wily old foxes and you have to concentrate against them," Francis said. "We did that, we never really let them get away, and we defended very well."

"I thought we were the better side over the 90 minutes. We were mostly the aggressors, and Bolton never really got a look-in in the second half."

Francis tipped Bolton for automatic promotion at the start of the season and he saw no reason to change his opin-

ion after meeting them at close quarters. "I still think they'll go up with Sunderland," he said. "They're a very good side." He may regret, though, that Birmingham did not close the five-point gap between the teams.

The afternoon had begun colourfully, with the opening of the new Railway Stand — an impressive 8,000-seat construction that cost £4.5 million. Jasper Carrott, Birmingham's most famous fan, performed the ceremonial duties dressed in collar, tie, jacket, track suit bottoms and boots.

"Where did you get the boots from?" he was asked. "I borrowed them from Stan Collymore," he replied. "There's not a mark on them." He then succeeded with five or six shots into the goal in front of the new stand. It was the last time anyone found the net.

Bolton were the first to squander, when Johansen thumped his effort against the crossbar. Birmingham then took over.

Ndlovu headed over. Jaaskelainen fumbled Hughes' fierce drive. Elliott blocked another attempt from Hughes. Jaaskelainen shaved from Furlong, and Sellars nodded Rowen's goalbound header off the line.

Bolton were wasteful, too, with Sellars heading over from Whitlow's cross, which had been deflected by Bass's possibly illegal use of a hand, and Holdsworth seeing his header guided to safety by Charlton.

In the second half, anti-discrimination set in. Bolton appeared happy to secure the draw and the home fans among Birmingham's biggest crowd of the season, 26,051, grew rapidly frustrated. What Francis would have given for a repeat of 1971.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): A. Poole; J. Bass, G. Rowen, D. Pugh, S. Charlton; B. Hughes, M. O'Connor, G. Hargreaves, S. Rowen, S. Sellars; M. Grant; P. Ndlovu (sub); N. Foster, 82; P. Furlong (sub); D. Adenola, 87.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): J. Jaaskelainen; N. Cowie, M. Fish, R. Elliott, M. Whitlow; M. Johansen, C. Jensen (sub); R. Gardner, 76; P. Furlong, S. Sellars; D. Holdsworth (sub); B. Hanson, 76; R. Taylor.

Referee: M. Pearce

## Sunderland display the killer instinct

Sunderland.....2  
Wolverhampton W.....1

By MARTIN WOODS

BROKEN hearts and Sunderland Football Club are no strangers. Losing that dramatic penalty shoot-out to Charlton Athletic at Wembley last June in the Nationwide League first division play-offs final initiated a team and a community's melancholic retreat back home to Wearside.

Slowly but surely, though, that memory is being erased and Peter Reid's men, harder of heart and scornful of sentiment, have shown themselves to be partial to dishing out heartbreak to any team bold enough to challenge their credentials as the division's masters.

Sunderland, you see, can now crush opponents at the death. Wolverhampton Wanderers were the latest victims. Unbeaten in their past six games, they fully deserved a point on Saturday, but then, after 89 minutes, Niall Quinn, that gangling contradiction of finesse and elbow grease, arrived to administer the coup de grace.

Lee Clark, faced with a wall of defenders, played the ball wide to Nicky Summerbee on the right wing. His cross reached Allan Johnston, whose shot was parried by Stowell only as far as Quinn, who fired home from six yards. The crowd, depleted by



Quinn: late winner

departing fans persuaded that the game was a stalemate, celebrated with gusto.

The previous Saturday, a penalty by Kevin Phillips in the 89th minute gave Sunderland a 1-0 victory over Bristol City. "We've got goals at the death on that many occasions, it's down to the character of the players and their fitness," Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, said.

Yet, while he was justifiably proud of his charges, Colin Lee, his opposite number, could consider only the injustice of it all, a sense heightened by two goals that were disallowed by Phil Richards, the referee. The first, after 60 minutes, had the greater claim to legitimacy. Richards ignored Haavard Flo's forearm challenge on Andy Melville as he headed the ball into the Sunderland box, where Keane rose with Michael Gray on the goaline and headed the ball into the net. Richards penalised Keane, no goal.

Five minutes later, Keane cheekily contradicted the referee's decision by shooting past Sorensen, but Richards was well placed to detect the infringement. Sunderland had taken the lead after ten minutes, when Quinn, intercepting a Wolves clearance, headed the ball into the path of Johnston. The Scottish winger controlled it before shooting through Stowell's legs from ten yards.

Wolves' equaliser 13 minutes later owed much to the nervousness that can pervade the home side's play at the Stadium of Light. Osborn played a ball from the centre circle up towards Keane. The retreating Melville, committed to a back header by the time that Sorensen in the Sunderland goal began his sprint forward, headed into his own net.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): T. Sorensen; C. Melvin, A. Melville, T. Butler, M. Gray; N. Summerbee, L. Clark, P. Ball, A. Johnston; N. Quinn, P. Phillips. WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): M. Stowell; J. Harcourt, C. Curle; D. Richards, M. Adams; N. Embien, S. Jaggie, S. Osborn, P. Simpson; H. Flo, P. Reid.

Referee: P. Richards

## Preston's ambition dented by Reading

Reading.....2  
Preston North End.....1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

TWO studmarks on the door of the dressing-room for the match officials — David Crick, the referee, and Messrs Bone and Parish, his assistants — indicated that it had not been a good day for Preston North End. The marks were at kung fu-kick height and possibly of disabling intensity had any one left the room at the wrong time. They had not come there by accident.

Little had gone right for Preston. They arrived in buoyant mood at the Madejski Stadium on Saturday as leaders of the Nationwide League second division; they had collected 31 points on their travels and lost only twice. They departed angry and dismayed, the victims of a hotly disputed 89th-minute penalty tucked away by Tony Thorpe, the Reading striker. Mr Crick was not their favourite person.

In between, and despite the early losses of Parkinson and McKenna because of injury, Preston had dominated a tepid encounter that warmed up only as the afternoon grew colder. Three times they struck the woodwork and they also wasted a 52nd-minute penalty, with the score at 0-0, after Howie had felled Basham. Howie swiftly atoned by saving

Nogan's weak spot kick. Reading went ahead three minutes later, when Caskey curled in a delightful 20-yard free kick, and although Preston equalised with ten minutes remaining, through Basham's volley, Crick deemed that Gregan's challenge on Caskey was "reckless". With Caskey, the regular penalty-taker, still groggy, Thorpe assumed the responsibility with panache.

"I'm going to have to have a look at it," David Moyes, the Preston manager, said as he clutched a video of the match. "In the past, I've been man enough to ring up the referee and apologise if I'm wrong."

Gregan's tackle, indeed, seemed reckless and humble play might be on the menu. Moyes, 35, was shortlisted for the assistant's job to Alex Ferguson at Manchester United before Steve McClaren, of Derby County, got the nod. The darts-in-the-door episode was dealt with adeptly. Moyes gave the briefest of smiles and quickly changed the topic. Should Ferguson again have to search for a new No.2, perhaps he need only consult his files.

READING (5-3-2): S. Howe; G. Murphy, L. Phillips, J. Preston, S. Gray, B. Gregan; B. Caskey, P. Parkinson; P. Bony, G. Hargreaves, 72m; A. Thorpe (sub); M. San, 80.

PRESTON NORTH END (4-4-2): D. Lucas; G. Parkinson (sub); J. Darby, 23; R. Kido, M. Jackson, D. Louden (sub); G. Wardle, 99; L. Cartwright, S. Green, M. Rankine, P. McKenna (sub); J. Harris, 37; K. Nogan, S. Basham.

Referee: D. Crick

## Randall enjoys a fitting outcome

Walsall.....1  
Chesterfield.....1

By A CORRESPONDENT

ONE goal, one point and no injuries — during what could be a defining week in Chesterfield's season the last statistic will be the most significant. Resources and stunts are stretched to the limit, a fact confirmed by Kevin Randall, the Chesterfield assistant manager.

As the Derbyshire mining-town club's third-highest goalscorer, Randall recently made his 750th appearance for Chesterfield in his capacity as player, coach or manager. With Manchester City, close rivals on form but distant relatives in status, to play this Saturday, he realises that his team's resolve faces a stern test over the coming weeks.

"It is a case of keeping our key players fit and hoping for a few lucky breaks," he said. "We may look at the likes of Manchester City, Fulham and Stoke with envy but that won't do us any good."

"We have a great spirit in the dressing-room. All right, we may not be the best team in the world, but people know when they play us, they are in for a game."

Ray Graydon, the Walsall manager, would not argue with that. When the Boys from the Black Country meet the

Boys from the Blackstuff, only fools and partisans would expect football as performed by the Boys from Brazil.

The purist cause was not helped by an awful pitch at the Bescon Stadium, upon which even the very best would have struggled. Graydon said that he had had to change tactics, with the robust frame of Andy Rammell, the former Barnsley striker, the target of many a forward thrust.

That both goals came from headers was an indication of the nature of the game. Mark Williams, the Chesterfield centre back, scored from close range after an 11th-minute corner while Rammell did his duty in first-half injury time, swooping head first to add the finish to Darko Mavraj's fine run and cross from the left flank. Billy Mercer, the Chesterfield captain, produced two athletic second-half saves to ensure that there were no more goals after the break.

Walsall, on reflection, will view the long-term absence of Andy Watson, their centre forward, substituted after half an hour with a torn groin, more costly than the loss of two points at home.

WALSALL (4-4-2): J. Walker; C. Marsh, A. Whelan, J. Rogers, N. Portman; D. Wright, B. Emerson, D. Keates, D. Mayson; A. Watson (sub); J. Bressan, 50m; A. Rammell.

CHESTERFIELD (4-4-2): B. Mercer; C. Porters, M. Williams, J. Broad, S. Nicholson; T. Currie, M. Ebdon, P. Holland, C. Beaumont; J. Howard, D. Reeves.

Referee: P. Darson

Hull City.....1  
Barnet.....0

By MIC WOOD

A MOST extraordinary thing has happened to Hull City. At the turn of the year they were plumb last in the Nationwide League and when they managed to scrape a 1-0 victory over Rotherham United on January 9 it was regarded as probably nothing more than an aberrant upward blip.

They have played seven games since, and have been beaten only once, quite extraordinary. With a population, including its suburbs, approaching 500,000, Hull is the largest city in Europe never to have won a signifi-

## Hull showing spirit to preserve status

cant honour, the largest never to have had a team in a European competition. When Mark Hateley was dismissed as manager in November, it looked likely to become the largest city in Europe without a club in a mainstream league.

His love affair with the club owner, David Lloyd, the Great Britain Davis Cup tennis captain, had ended in sour words and recriminations, but salvation in the boardroom came in the shape of a consortium headed by Tom Beaton, a local

farmer, and on the field with the appointment of the long-serving Warren Joyce as player-manager.

Since then, Joyce has galvanised the team, brought in a whole raft of new players and fostered a remarkable team spirit among his disparate crew. This draw with Barnet was probably the worst performance of the eight-game run, including a 3-0 defeat away to Rochdale, but it still brought out the team's fighting qualities.

The point kept Hull three points ahead of Scarbor-

ough, but having played one game more. Their continued presence in the Football League is still anything but assured, but Joyce is clearly a man on a mission.

Headed, the Barnet centre half, scored with a 15-yard shot in the fourth minute but 12 minutes later Joyce's swirling free kick was turned into the net from point-blank range by White. The rest, frankly, was not much to write home about. But then, this was the third division and the foot of it, at that. If Hull survive, it will be with effort, not high art.

HULL CITY (5-5-2): A. Davies; J. White, M. Edwards, J. Whitney; S. Smith, D. O'Neil, G. Grant, W. Joyce, W. Williams; G. Atkinson, D. Brown (sub); B. Morley, 72m; BARNET (3-5-2): L. Harrison; G. Head, W. Graham, M. Alder; S. Sweeney, S. Seal; P. Wilson, J. Dodder, R. Saunders; K. Charters, M. King.

Referee: T. Hibdon

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## Motherwell overwhelmed by champions after dismissal of Spencer

## Celtic keep slender title hopes ticking

Motherwell.....1  
Celtic.....7

By Phil Gordon

IF CELTIC'S pursuit of Rangers at the top of the Scottish Premier League is in vain, then the only people in danger of being left breathless are their supporters. The champions, who have closed the gap to ten points, outdid their Old Firm rivals in goalscoring volume, as Henrik Larsson scored four times at Fir Park when Motherwell, reduced to ten men for much of the game, simply wilted last night.

Incredibly, three of the goals came in the last eight minutes. Mark Burchill, a substitute, scored with his first touch, then Larsson plunged in the knife with a glorious shot and then a header, after 85 and 87 minutes, to take his tally for the match to four and for the season to 31 goals.

All the attention prior to this encounter had been monopolised by Andy Gorm, who had been dropped by Motherwell in a bid to defuse the sensitive reunion between the former Rangers goalkeeper and Celtic's supporters after allegations of links with loyalist paramilitary sympathisers.

The tight security around Fir Park indicated that the police did not treat lightly the possibility of passions becoming inflamed. The game, however, would soon ignite all on its own, though not before Motherwell carved out a real chance to take the lead in the eleventh minute.

A clever diagonal ball from Ged Brannan was misjudged

by Johan Mjallby, the Celtic central defender. Lee McCulloch pounced on Mjallby's error but his firm right-foot shot was blocked by the goalkeeper, Jonathan Gould.

Two minutes later an ugly skirmish involving John Spencer, the Motherwell forward, and Jackie McNamara saw Spencer, who was the instigator, sent off, while the Celtic player was cautioned. In the sour aftermath Brannan and McCulloch were fortunate not to be punished for brutal tackles.

Motherwell's palpable resentment found new depths in the 21st minute when Celtic were awarded a penalty, from which Henrik Larsson scored his 28th goal of the season. However, they had little reason to nurse a grievance because Michel Doesburg had clearly tripped Stéphane Mahe, the Celtic left back, as he pursued Paul Lambert's sublime chip into the area.

Steve Woods, Gorm's replacement in the Motherwell goal, opted to stand his ground as Larsson's recent quartet of penalties have all been driven down the middle, but this time the Sweden player rolled his kick just inside the left-hand post.

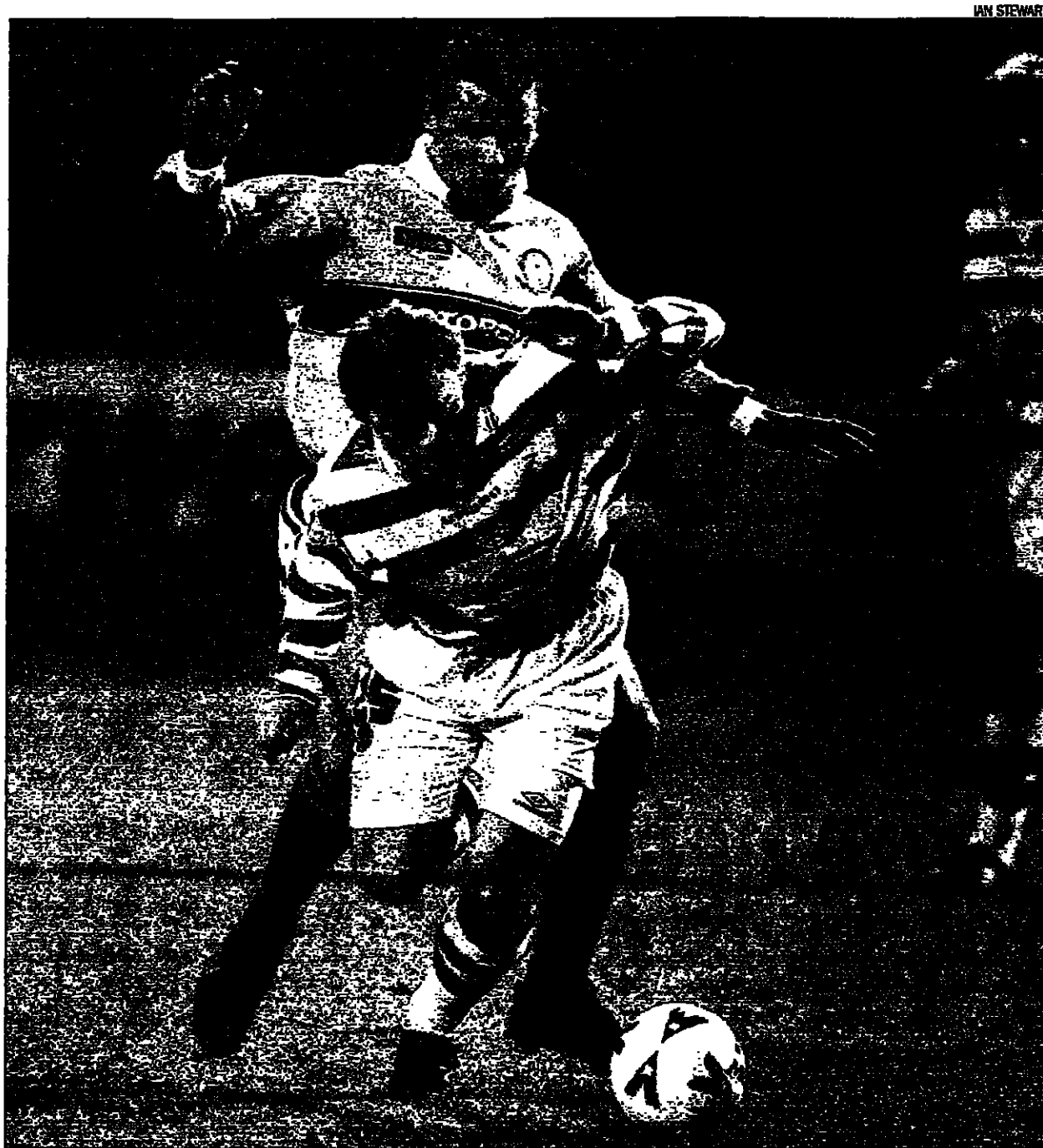
Motherwell are imbued with real spirit, though, and equalised within four minutes. Tom Boyd, the Celtic captain, fouled Sime Valakari outside the penalty area and Brannan curled the free kick around the wall with his right foot and past Gould.

Brannan, however, provided Moravcik with the stage to eclipse that goal in the 29th minute by bringing down Larsson, a foul for which he was booked. Moravcik's precise free kick arced over the wall and went in off the post to restore Celtic's lead.

The physical content of the contest remained undiluted by the passage of goalscoring, and Mjallby and Boyd were added to the toll of cautions on either side of half-time.

True, the action was as raw as the conditions, but the incessant pace of play ensured everyone remained oblivious to the flurries of snow. Brannan ought to have delivered a shot on target in the 61st minute, but the Norway player shot wastefully over the bar.

As if outraged at such profligacy, Larsson showed his Scandinavian colleague how to finish just four minutes later with the ruthless instinct of a predator. Rieth robbed Pat Nevin, Motherwell's substitute, and found Brattbakk,



Moravcik, scorer of the second Celtic goal, tries to keep his balance as McCulloch challenges him from behind

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who wisely transferred the ball to Larsson for the forward to wriggle past three tackles and thrash a low, right-foot shot into the corner of the net.

Brattbakk then conspired to contribute the miss of this, or any other, season before Craig Burley, who had replaced Moravcik just minutes earlier, stretched Celtic's margin further in the 74th minute.

McNamara and Larsson linked well on the right, allow-

ing the latter to roll a pass into Burley's path and the Scotland midfielder player, who has not played since last October, drove a low shot under Woods's body.

**MOTHERWELL** (3-5-2): S Woods — S Gorm (sub: P Nevin, 30min), J McGovern, S Tait — M Doesburg, G Brannan, S Valakari, J Spencer, E Mahe (sub: Rieth, 61min), O Doyle (sub: D Adams, 63), L McCulloch.

**CELTIC** (4-4-2): J Gould — T Boyd, V Rieth, J Mjallby, S Mahe (sub: T McCrory, 70), — J McNamara, P Lambert, L Moravcik (sub: C Burley, 70), R Rieth — H Brattbakk (sub: M Burchill, 82), H Larsson.

Referee: K Clark.

## Young stars owed debt of protection

By Rob Hughes

THE Fifa emergency committee, meeting in Zurich this morning, should have a higher priority than whether to impose its authority over the Arsenal-Sheffield United rematch at the eleventh hour. England and Ireland, and 14 other nations, urgently need the seven men of Fifa, the world governing body, to call off the world under-20 championship in Nigeria, from April 4 to 24.

The threat to life there is so grave that players have been told to have nine inoculations and to bring their own blood plasma to avoid HIV. They have been assured that, in the event of a blood injury, helicopters will stand by to whisk them out of the country.

Leeds United stated on Saturday that none of their players will travel to Nigeria. "It has been taken out of my hands," David O'Leary, the manager, said. "It's not a football decision and the board has decided not to release any of our players. If Fifa say we can't use them here while the tournament is on, we're not worried: the welfare of those players has to be our first concern."

Leeds expected five of their starters — including Alan Smith and Jonathan Woodgate — to be called up by England and Ireland. They are the first club publicly to refuse, but among others, West Ham United, Tottenham Hotspur and Wolverhampton Wanderers have to weigh up their duty

to the players and to their parents, and duty to Fifa. British nationals are warned by the Foreign Office of the risks of kidnap, crime and even of travel aboard poorly maintained aircraft in Nigeria. It is not just a matter of protecting the Leeds five, or Joe Cole, Luke Young or Robbie Keane from exposure to disease, but a fundamental question of risk to young players.

Africa matters to football. But in sport, health is paramount, and Fifa ought to have heeded this warning when, four years ago, it was obliged to remove the world youth championship from Nigeria because of political instability and conflicting advice on meningitis and cholera.

That withdrawal exposed Fifa to allegations from political and sporting organisations that it had allowed Nigeria to invest \$100 million (about £60 million) on infrastructure without delivering the tournament.

These claims will be repeated if the risk of playing is again cause to deprive Nigeria of staging the event. But South Africa, bidding to stage the 2006 World Cup, could be damaged either way and Fifa, before it offers guarantees to apprentice players, might recall João Havelange, the president in 1995, having to concede: "I do not want one young person suffering any kind of disease on my conscience."



'The welfare of those five players has to be our first concern'

— David O'Leary

## Inter failings give Ferguson encouragement

## OVERSEAS VIEW

By Rob Hughes

it, of course, Inter had to come out and attack, but it was not until the last, frantic five minutes that they had a real threat on goal when Roberto Baggio, still mercurial at 32, took a free kick from just outside the area, curled the ball over the top of the defensive wall, but alas for him, struck the crossbar. Then, in the 90th minute, Baggio was denied again, this time by a splendid save. He comes with the warning writ large, United beware.

Defeat left Inter 11 points adrift of Lazio in the championship, and behind the reviving

AC Milan as well. Inter are between coaches, waiting for Marcello Lippi who, since he has now departed Juventus, could be invited to step in before the Old Trafford contest.

Juventus, without him, scored twice against Vicenza to register a second consecutive win under Carlo Ancelotti, a warning for Olympiakos Piraeus, their European Cup quarter-final opponents.

Bayern Munich eased to a 3-0 victory away to MSV Duisburg as German football returned after the longest winter break in Europe. Goals from

Jancker, Effenberg and Helmer gave Bayern a comfortable passage and extended their lead at the top of the Bundesliga to ten points. They are clear favourites to beat Kaiserslautern in their all-German European Cup clash.

That leaves possibly the most intriguing European Cup quarter-final pairing, Dynamo Kiev, who are still in winter hibernation, against Real Madrid, the champions.

Woe is Real Madrid. A week

ago they surrendered in front of 98,000 people in Barcelona and, Lorenzo Sanz, the voluble Madrid president, denied that he would be sacking Guss Hiddink, the club's coach.

A week later, a home defeat in front of 70,000 at the Bernabéu, and President Sanz is singing a different tune. He watched Santi Ezquerro score from 20 yards for Athletic Bilbao, heard the crowd baying their displeasure, and said: "We can't carry on like this."

The supporters want solutions and so do we."

Not far from the stadium where he built Real Madrid's European-championship winning side, and then left because of his deteriorating relationship with Sanz, Fabio Capello, the Italian coach, was speaking at the Spanish National Institute of Sport, where he admitted that a second spell at the Bernabéu might be attractive to him.

I wonder how Capello rates Steve McManaman, who last week signed a £14 million five-year contract to play in the white of Real Madrid from this summer?

## Old rivals hope for favourable draw

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

FOR the second year running, Tiverton Town and Taunton Town, arch rivals from the South West League, go into the semi-final draw of the FA Carlsberg Vase desperately hoping to be kept apart when the names are drawn out of the bag this evening.

Last year, the sides got their wish — only for Tow Law to spoil the script of a West Country day out at Wembley when they beat Taunton over the two-legged semi-final. Tiverton went on to beat Tow Law 1-0 in the final.

The holders crushed Clitheroe 4-0, with a burst of goals in the second half by Phil Everett, who scored twice. Pete Varley, the match-winner at Wembley, and Kevin Nancekivell, Taunton were equally ruthless, once they had overcome the shock of falling behind to an early strike by Phil Stone. Tony Lynch and Ellis Light, their prolific strikers, were on target, with Martin Parker, the midfield player, scoring in between.

The other semi-finalists were taken to extra time. Andy Bows, of Bedlington Terriers, saw off Workington with the only goal of the tie, four minutes from the end of the additional period. Thame United, of the Ryman League, ended the hopes of Woodbridge Town, the Jewson Eastern Counties League side,

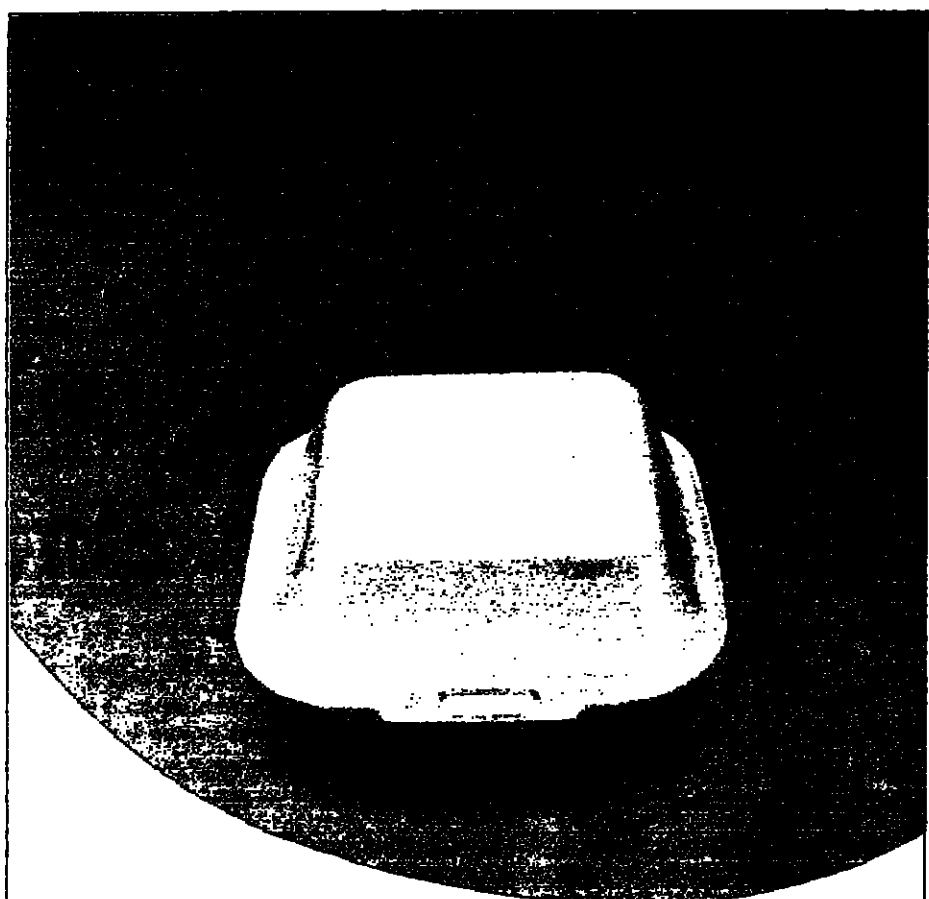
who had held them to 0-0 in 90 minutes, when Louis Herbert from the penalty spot, and Jefferson Louis scored.

The return of Darren Collins after a lengthy absence through injury has helped to revive Rushden and Diamonds' chase for the Nationwide Conference title. Collins clinched a 1-0 win at Welling United in midweek and did the trick again when Diamonds beat Hednesford Town at Nene Park. He left it late, though — his decisive intervention did not arrive until injury time.

It means that Rushden are 11 points behind Kettering Town, the leaders — who avenged their recent FA Umbro Trophy defeat by winning 2-1 at Kingsthorpe — with five matches in hand. Cheltenham Town remain in the best position, two points behind with four matches in hand, after beating Hereford United 2-0 at Edgar Street.

Yeovil Town's season-long unbeaten run away from home came to an end at Barrow, the club in receivership, who gained a welcome shaft of light amid their gloom with a 2-0 victory.

Aylesbury United, having gained the go-ahead to make ground improvements to meet Conference requirements, forged ahead in the Ryman League premier division with a 1-0 win away to Bromley.



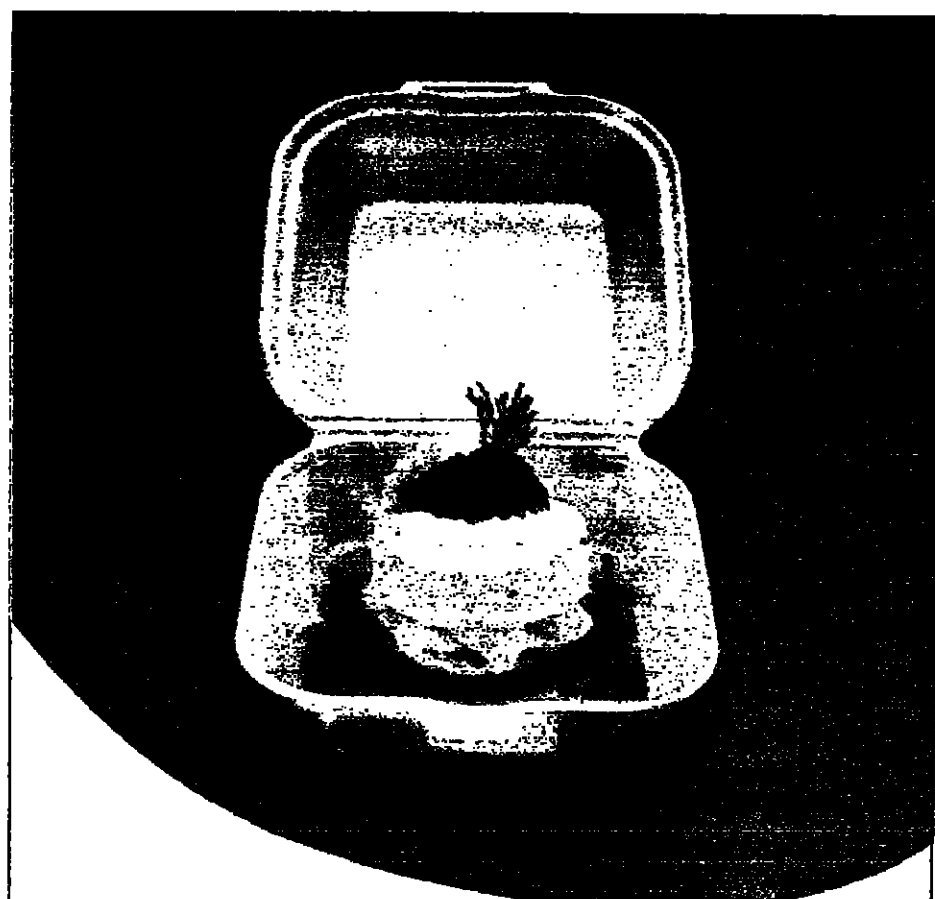
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# Matchmakers pursue goal of dumbing down

They have taken to showing the Emmanuelle movies on Channel 5, something that naturally attracted my attention — after all, the eponymous heroine also shares the name of my Alma Mater. The Emmanuelle movies were based on the assumption that a girl simply couldn't have too many. And then, coming back from the rugby in time to catch the football on Saturday night, I discovered that *Match of the Day* is based on exactly the same principle. No seduction, no narrative, no foreplay: just wham, wham, wham. It's quite enjoyable, but it lacks the basic subtlety of soft pornography.

When counting wildlife — waders on an estuary, buffalo on the plains — the tendency is to underestimate. With *Match of the Day* moments of perfect fulfilment, I fear I may have erred in the opposite direction. Still, in the interests of science I have attempted a count of the number of times we saw the ball hitting the back of the net in the space of one hour and ten minutes of television.

Please look away from the result and have a guess first, just as we used to when we watched *Match of the Day* in the Sixties. All right? Here is the answer, or my answer, anyway: 58 goals. This is just shy of a goal every minute. It is the custom in this country to

sneer at basketball and at the audience's pathetic need to have the gratification of a score every time they look up. Football doesn't give you such a rhythm. But *Match of the Day* does. Again and again, relentlessly, it brings us goals at a pace and a rhythm that would leave Emmanuelle herself gasping.

Perhaps this was a slightly unfair week to choose because Arsenal scored five in the featured match — 17 minutes of the match were allowed, and that included three showings of each goal. And then the goals again in the analysis. Balance was redressed by Manchester United, who scored a single goal against Coventry City in another



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

17-minute contraction of a game. So I suspect that the average of a goal a minute is not far off standard. But then, what is football but goals? Answer: if you don't know, I can't tell you. Every football match is not so much a succession of goals as a narrative of tension and its occasional violent release.

The most enthralling book about sex ever written is *Les*

*Liaisons Dangereuses*. It does not take us at breakneck speed from orgasm to orgasm; instead, it is a relentless and terrible narrative of sexual tension and power. It is an almost unbearably tight sale of entrapment, one that seems to end in a kind of three-way 0-0 draw (as in much ado about nothing) until at the end, every single character seems to lose by penalty shoot-out.

But *Match of the Day* has largely dispensed with narrative. We have short attention spans these days, apparently: we need the gratification of goals and if ten or 15 minutes were to pass without one, perhaps vast numbers of the audience would reach for their zappers.

But — perish the thought — perhaps we would get bored with too many goals. So we zap at breakneck speed from one soundbite post-match interview to the next, get the faces on the screen and then get away before we notice the banality of what they actually say. (The best quote of the day came on Radio 5 Live: Gordon Strachan said that the truly positive thing about Coventry's performance was that his

goalie didn't make a save. Coventry, remember, lost 1-0.)

And then, of course, to Alan Hansen, who is seeking to make himself the Oscar Wilde of football, trying, by being always absolutely overeducated, to make up for being always absolutely overdrressed. Here's that goal again, but this time, there's a circle round the bloke who set it up. Wham! And here's another with a circle round the scorer. Bam!

Oh, I don't really want to complain about *Match of the Day*. There was a parody of the movie series mentioned above, called *Carry On Emmanuelle*, and that sums up pretty well how I feel about *Match of the Day*.

But it does give us a clue as to the way television people feel about sport these days. They do not trust it. They have lost faith with sport's power to enthral by mere narrative. Hence the visual gimmicks that Sky constantly chucks in to live action: hence the climax-to-climax nature of *Match of the Day*. They don't trust us to pay attention.

The narrative of sport cannot be relied upon, but it is the most thrilling aspect of the whole process. *Match of the Day* stands for a tendency in all televised sport. It is something that many people would consider downright impossible, but they are doing it. It is called the dumbing down of sport.

'I rooted for Giggs because he was brilliant ... and how could anyone dislike Yorke?'

## Standing up to fans who hate Man U

Earning to hate Manchester United has been an uphill struggle, I admit. But unfortunately, since this particular emotion is almost a prerequisite for enjoying English football, I knew from the beginning that I would have to give it a stab. A mild temperamental dislike of West Ham was scarcely adequate as a foodie credential, I soon discovered. 'I've got quite mixed feelings about Nottingham Forest,' I offered, with a small appended 'Grrr', to add conviction. 'And I'll tell you something else. Highfield Road has got disgusting press facilities.' But football friends despaired. And more than anything (more even than my equal, even-handed and impossible admiration for both Arsenal and Tottenham), my agnosticism about United marked me as a freak. 'This is something you can not be fair-minded about,' they said. 'This is *Manchester United*.' Clearly only a course in electric shocks could ever sort me out to their satisfaction. 'Well, I think Man U are very talented actually.' 'Bzzzz. Aaagh!' 'Beckham? Oh, bless his cotton socks, I say.' 'Bzzzzzzzz. Aaaaaaagh!' And so on.

I mention all this because on Saturday, at Highfield Road (where the press facilities are as disgusting as ever), I fell among fans who hated Manchester United to the usual, insane degree, ie, as if the whole team had been responsible for burning their house down or starting the war in the former Yugoslavia. 'Break his leg!' was the angry-mob shout to Paul Williams, Coventry's excellent human bulldozer, whenever a tackle was on the cards — an instruction in deliberate poor taste, I thought, when poor Denis 'Snapper' Irwin was on the field. The

LYNNE TRUSS



fans booed Beckham, boringly. They stood up in high dudgeon and pointed a lot at Roy Keane. You know the kind of thing. But here was an opportunity, I realised. The setting was perfect: the conditions ideal. If I really put my mind to it, I could summon up hatred for Manchester United, and finally become a proper football person. *Hate Manchester United, come on, come on!* I urged myself. *Coventry are playing splendidly, yet they will be beaten at home and it's not fair, and Roy Keane is certainly pretty unpleasant when you think about it, grrr, put your back into it, gosh you wouldn't want to meet Jaap Stam down a dark alley, grrr, grrr. At which point I collapsed defeated and the whistle blew.*

To be honest, the one thing that generally prejudices me against teams is simply the bad behaviour of their fans in my proximity,



Giggs, who was brilliant throughout the afternoon at Highfield Road, beats Hedman with a cross-shot to give Manchester United victory over Coventry City

which I recognise is not only an unfair and subjective yardstick, but will sooner or later rule out every team in the country unless I start wearing ear-muffs and watching from a small seat in the family enclosure on Toddlers Only Day.

At the moment, the yelled, unprintable opinions of vile male fans have put me off Southampton, Sheffield Wednesday, Coventry City, Nottingham Forest, Chelsea and Portsmouth; meanwhile nice fans have given me unrealistic soft spots for Charlton Athletic and Middlesbrough. Disillusionment awaits at both The Valley and the Riverside, obviously. It's the reason I've seen Crystal Palace only once. About two years ago, I had such an impossible nice afternoon at Selhurst Park sitting beside an amusing professional wrestler that I dare not return and risk ruining it.

Having said all this, I admit I'm automatically censorious of friends who turn out to support United, because it's so transparently the Snuggles option. 'What's your team?' I ask brightly. And when they say 'Man U' I purse my lips, but cannot disguise the horror in my eyes. What sort of person would miss the point of the far-distant enterprise, which is to build your rickety house of dreams on shifting sands?

In an act deliberately offensive to all fair-minded people, Man U fans had clearly taken one look at those shifting sands, said 'Ha! Not me!', brought in an expensive construction team, sunk foundations into firm clay, and then erected an electric fence around the site. Despite the fact that the Bible repeatedly advocates this procedure in parable form, they still ought to be

thoroughly ashamed of themselves. So Saturday was a bit of a failure for me. Despite all my best efforts to the contrary, I ended up disliking Coventry. Man U were not on top form, but they had an extra dimension to their game. I kept rooting for Giggs because he was brilliant; and how could anyone dislike Yorke?

The single goal of the match was beautifully achieved through the speed of counter-attack, when Schmeichel threw the ball a spectacular distance to Yorke, who went like a train with it; Giggs intervened and passed it neatly out right to Beckham, then ran to the goal and popped in Beckham's reliably soaring diagonal pass.

For about 20 seconds, Coventry might not have been there. And 20 seconds of inattention from Coventry was all that Manchester United needed to wait off home with the three points.

People may say I miss the catharsis of football because I don't demand broken limbs or spit on the name of Schmeichel. You have to hate someone, they say. Last week I took a taxi in Brighton and the driver wore a Leeds United hat. 'Why do you support Leeds?' I asked. 'Because they're my team,' he said (somewhat tautologically, 'I'm going up to see them play Tottenham, Me, you see, I hate Tottenham, Chelsea and Man U.' I had not asked him who he hated, by the way. He just felt the need to volunteer it. He obviously felt that it did him good, or at least defined his character.

But alas, the whole theory of catharsis has been disproved by football in any case. Aristotle's idea was, I think, that an audience could purge its emotions through identification with enacted spectacle, and that through the act

of empathy (enmeshed by pity and fear) you became a better person. With football, however, it's more a case of 'Aristotle? Break his legs!' The purging doesn't work. The more you express your feelings at matches, it seems, the more bitter and vindictive and selfish you become. And the more, incidentally, tender little flowers like me have to put up with it.

I will never forget the Wembley crowd's treatment of Matt Le Tissier in the England v Italy World Cup qualifying match two years ago: here was a group of people so murderously angry that it was like witnessing an acid attack. Yes, they had a valid point to make. A three-toed sloth might have been a nippier option up front than Le Tissier that night. But the crowd virtually howled for his blood. And if that was useful emotional outpouring, then quite honestly, I'm King Lear.

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## SPORTS LETTERS

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: [sporletters@the-times.co.uk](mailto:sporletters@the-times.co.uk)

### Repercussions of the Cup incident at Highbury

From Mr William Le Fleming

Sir, It is a dismal indication of the moral abyss to which sport has now sunk that Arsene Wenger's offer to replay the Arsenal versus Sheffield United FA Cup tie has been extensively lauded as a Corinthian gesture. After the bizarre behaviour of his players in the original match, such a gesture, even if it is unprecedented, seems no more than a common courtesy.

In any case, Wenger's offer of a replay was born not from a desire to play fair — to play cricket, if you allow the peculiarity of the analogy — it was a piece of entirely understandable self-interest. The man's no fool: the opprobrium that would have been directed at his team had he not done so — with a tidal wave of public hostility swamping the players, already labelled as dirty, at every game — would have damaged their chances of success, and his own record would have been eternally stained by this most memorable of events.

His offer of a replay was necessary politics, and should be accepted without surprise or fuss — certainly without the adulatory fawning that this dubious defender, not of high

principles, but his players' sometimes outrageous souls, received. The implications of the incident itself are far more disturbing than its aftermath. An alert referee, noticing Kanu to be behaving unfairly, should promptly have stopped play before the goal and pointed it out to the poor chap, booking him for unsportsmanlike conduct into the bargain. Kanu, only just on as a substitute and making his debut, had something of an excuse. The same cannot be said of Overmars. His only possible course of redemption would have been to take possession as soon as possible from the restart and score an own goal to equalise. Yours faithfully, WILLIAM LE FLEMING, College Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 7HX.

From Dr Andrew McCaig

Sir, Whilst I applaud the rapid response of the Football Association to the request of the two clubs for a replay, it should be remembered that Arsenal still stand to gain massively from the unsportsmanlike behaviour of their players. They will have several key players back from injury and suspension, far fewer Sheffield United fans will be able to get to a mid-week match, and it is unlikely that Wenger will underestimate his opposition a second time.

At the time of the incident the score was 1-1 and Sheffield United were having the better of the second half. A replay at Bramall Lane was what the players and fans deserved. As for your suggestion that the gate receipts should go to charity, in the unlikely event that I am able to attend the re-

match I would want my money to help alleviate the financial crisis at Sheffield United, not to go to some charity not chosen by me.

As is usual in football, it is the 'big battalions' that stand to benefit, with Wenger making a public relations triumph and retaining maximum tactical advantage out of the atrocious behaviour of Overmars, one of his senior players. ANDREW McCaig, 26 Regent Avenue, Horsford, Leeds LS18 4NU. [a.mccaig@earth.lead.ac.uk](mailto:a.mccaig@earth.lead.ac.uk)

From Mr Brian Charlrick

Sir, A precedent has been set and in future whenever we see a footballer produce a Oscar-contending dive within the penalty area, resulting in a winning goal from the spot kick, the match will have to be replayed.

Why? Because the player was not playing nicely. I must be waking from a violent nightmare where footballers, driven by financial greed, seek to get the opposition players sent off or booked, perform dives, pull constantly at opponents' shirts, push over referees and commit other such ungenerously acts. To awake from this and discover that fair play does count for something is refreshing.

The shame is that this is all far removed and out of touch with the modern game. If we are to replay the Arsenal versus Sheffield United game because both managers say so, and the winning goal was the result of an ungenerously act, then where do we stop? Sadly, the gesture, while commendable, is no late. Better to amend the rules of the game, for example to give the side wronged against — Sheffield United in this case — a goal kick.

Let's not create dangerous precedents in the heat of the moment, but look at the situation in perspective, and think of the consequences. BRIAN CHARLICK, 11 The Knoll, Billericay, Essex CM12 0NT. [b.charlrick@hotmail.com](mailto:b.charlrick@hotmail.com)

### Treading dangerously

From Miss Lydia Kirk and Miss Philippa Johnson

Sir, We are writing in response to your article of February 9 in which the new regulations about grooved Formula One tyres were discussed. Our attention was immediately drawn to the fact that Max Mosley, having consulted Professor Sid Watkins' analysts, engineers and safety experts, failed to take the drivers' views on board. Surely it must be a mistake to ignore the opinions of such experienced drivers as Michael Schumacher, Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve — all recent world champions.

Yours faithfully, LYDIA KIRK and PHILIPPA JOHNSON, St Mary's School, Wantage, Oxon OX12 8BZ.

After all, it is the drivers who will have to race on them this year. If top drivers like these worry about the future and safety of the racing, what will happen to the drivers who are perhaps not as good.

We do not feel that grooved tyres are the right way forward. If there are more grooves then there is a smaller surface area of rubber in contact with the track, decreasing grip. We do feel that Formula One should be slowed down a bit, but that grooved tyres are likely to make it unsafe and at the same time boring to watch and compete in because of the lack of combat and daring moves.

Yours faithfully, LYDIA KIRK and PHILIPPA JOHNSON, St Mary's School, Wantage, Oxon OX12 8BZ.

### Stormy debate

From Mr Mike Thorpe

Sir, As a fan of Manchester Storm, the subject of Devin Barrett's trade in his feature about the decline of the ice hockey Sekonda Superleague, I felt inclined to write. Of course the Superleague is not as good as the NHL. Ice hockey is primarily an American and Canadian sport and although some of Mr Barrett's story praised the standard of

the league, the overriding impression created was one of 'We're American, and bigger and better than you'.

This is only the third season of the Superleague, so the standard is not going to be as high as the NHL, but then the standard of the American and Canadian soccer leagues will never match our own. MIKE THORPE, 6 Colborne Avenue, Reddish, Stockport SK5 6PE. [mike.thorpe@mcc.ac.uk](mailto:mike.thorpe@mcc.ac.uk)

### This week in THE TIMES



TOMORROW: The Guardian Direct Cup begins in London: can Yevgeny Kafelnikov, above, keep the Brits at bay as he continues his challenge to Pete Sampras's world No 1 status?

WEDNESDAY: Will Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, be regretting his sporting decision to offer Sheffield United a second chance in their FA Cup fifth-round tie?

THURSDAY: With Tottenham Hotspur safely ensconced in the Worthington Cup final, George Graham's side will be hoping to have kept another route to Wembley open after their FA Cup replay against Leeds United.

SATURDAY: A full guide to the weekend's FA Carling Premiership action, plus the wit and wisdom of regular columnists Simon Barnes, Oliver Holt and Frank Oliver.











## GOLF

# Lawrie keeps nerves at bay in stroll to victory

FROM JON GREEN IN DOHA, QATAR

PAUL LAWRIE was as relieved as he was delighted at strolling home to collect the £102,383 first prize in the Qatar Masters on Saturday. His final round of 68 gave him a comfortable seven-stroke victory after finishing on 268, 20 under par.

Lawrie had begun the day with a five-stroke advantage over Jean van de Velde, of France, but he was determined to take nothing for granted, especially after a dismal early-morning practice session.

"I didn't sleep at all well last night. I just paced the room," the Scotsman said. "Everything was going through my mind, so I sat and watched movies and cricket on TV.

under par, after both completed final rounds of 68. Price was particularly pleased with his performance, for it was evidence of a new consistency in his game. He has finished eleventh, third and second in his past three tournaments.

Raymond Russell looked set to join Price and Kjeldsen in a three-way tie for second until he hooked his drive into the lake beside the 18th fairway. The triple-bogey that followed sent the Scotsman down into fifth place, whilst John Bickerton, from England, completed an enjoyable event with a 71 to finish fourth. The challenges of Ian Woosnam and Mark James tailed off after they had final rounds of 71 and 74 respectively, their worst of the week.

Saturday belonged to Lawrie, though, and whilst the piper played *Flower of Scotland* during the trophy presentation, Lawrie had time to reflect on the victory that he hopes may silence his critics. His only previous European Tour win came in disputed circumstances at the Catalan Open in 1996, which was cut to just 36 holes after bad weather intervened.

"Everyone still mentions that the last win was over two rounds and I got fed up of hearing it," he said. "People were saying that it wasn't a 'real win'. If they want to say that, then fine, but personally I still feel it was a win. This is obviously better than the Catalan Open and to have gone out there and played well was the big thing for me. To break 70 again I thought would be very tough, but I played lovely today. I played absolutely beautifully — it's all come right."

After finishing a lowly 62nd in the European rankings last year, Lawrie's victory in the Qatar Masters was, on its own, almost surpassed his total earnings for 1998. He is placed fourth in the Volvo Order of Merit and sits just outside the automatic Ryder Cup places.

Lawrie now plans to enjoy a week's holiday with his wife and children, before heading off to Portugal to participate in the Algarve Open, which starts on March 4.



Nicholas concentrates on the putt at the 7th that gave her a birdie during her final round of 73 in Hawaii

## Nicholas ends her drought

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALISON NICHOLAS, the British golfer who endured injury and illness throughout 1998, ended a 19-month run without a victory by claiming a one-stroke triumph in the Hawaiian Ladies Open on Saturday.

Nicholas's final round of 73 was enough to hold off the challenge of both Moira Dunn and Annette DeLuca and complete her fourth LPGA Tour win — her first since the 1997 US Women's Open. Her three-round total of 209, seven under par, collected her \$97,500 (about £50,000) in prize money. Nicholas won just £50,000 in 15 events last year and had claimed only £6,000 in her first four events this season. "Last year was tough,"

she said. "I won the US Open in 1997 and I suffered from the pressure beyond that. Last year I was ill and also fell off my moped, so this is a great change. I'm delighted to be back in the winner's circle."

Dunn and DeLuca were both thwarted in their bids to break their respective ducks on the LPGA Tour. Dunn produced a round of 68, four under par and DeLuca recorded a 70. Jan Stephenson, of Australia, who has won a tournament since 1987, finished in fourth place on 211 after a closing round of 71. Michelle McGann, who shared the second-round lead with Nicholas,

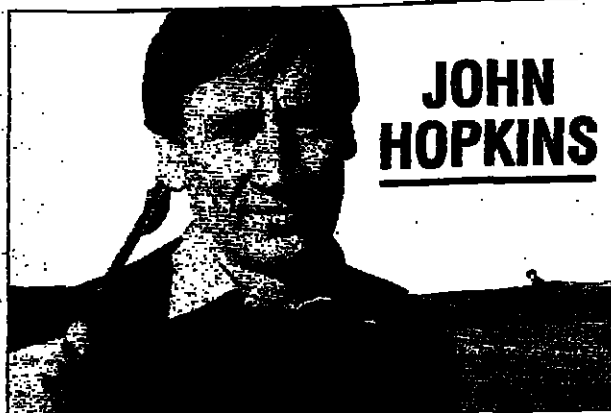
dropped off the leaderboard with a nine-over-par 81 that included four double bogeys, four bogeys, an eagle and a birdie.

Nicholas had eight pars and a birdie on the front nine, but the back nine proved far tougher as the wind and rain grew steadily worse. She three-putted from 25 feet for a bogey at the 13th and repeated that from 40 feet at the closing hole.

"On the 5th tee, we were absolutely soaked. It reminded me of home," Nicholas joked. "I knew that, because of the weather, it was going to be a struggle."

Wendy Ward, the defending champion, and Se Ri Pak, of South Korea, the 1998 rookie of the year, both missed the cut.

## Strokeplay no match for head-to-head



JOHN HOPKINS

What do Ian Fleming, P.G. Wodehouse, John Updike, Ring Lardner, Richard Ford, Stephen Potter and Agatha Christie have in common? I shall award you one point for knowing that golf features in the works of these authors, quite often in the case of Wodehouse. I shall award a bonus point to anyone who knows that they wrote quite often about matchplay golf.

In Wodehouse's matches the hero, who usually is hapless, helpless or hopeless, and sometimes all three, is often playing for the hand of a comedy girl. On occasions, though, the stakes are serious. The American millionaires, Bradbury Fisher and Gladstone Bott, played a rousing match for three railroads and an English butler.

Such matches are a joy to read about because Wodehouse lived and loved golf and understood the rhythms of the game. Consider this passage: "Gladstone Bott ... fussed about for a few minutes like a hen scratching gravel, then with a stiff quarter swing sent his ball straight down the fairway for a matter of seventy yards, and it was Bradbury Fisher's turn to drive ... It was his [Fisher's] habit, as a rule, to raise his left foot some six inches from the ground and, having swayed forcefully back on to his right leg, to sway sharply forward again and lash out with a crackling violence in the general direction of the ball."

Fleming has contributed the widest-known golf match of all time to literature. Anyone who has not read how James Bond defeated Goldfinger in Fleming's book of that name has probably seen a recreation of the match in the film. Though in the book the course is named Royal St Mark's and described as the greatest seaside course in the world, where the club professional was Cyril Whiting, Fleming set it at Royal St George's, where he was a member and past captain, and the then professional was Cyril Blacking.

It is revealing that for more weeks than not, strokeplay golf demands my attention, yet my memories are divided equally between the two. It follows that matchplay has that extra something. Matchplay encourages the daring stroke because the only penalty is the loss of the hole and not the loss of several strokes and ultimately prize money. Matchplay to strokeplay is rugby union to rugby league, a sports car to a saloon, a devilish little par four of 340 yards to a 450-yard par four into a wind. Strokeplay is unrelenting, like being gripped in a vice on the first tee and not released until the last putt is holed. It takes for-

ever. It can be boring and often is.

Matchplay was therefore the natural form of golf when a relative and I played the other day. We had not seen each other for a while and had never played together. We met just after nine o'clock, teed off at 9.25 and as we played we talked of this and that. At least Roddy did; I listened. We played off our respective handicaps and I had to hole a three-footer on the 18th to have a match in which almost every hole was won or lost. The hands on the clock stood at 11.55 as we completed our round, match all square, honour shared, much enjoyment had by both of us.

Matchplay has a way of insinuating itself deep into the consciousness. I have no recollection of my first competitive round, at the age of eight, other than knowing it was 144 strokes. On the other hand, I can remember quite clearly my first serious match. It was against John Jermaine in the quarter-finals of the Welsh Boys' Championship at Llandrindod Wells in 1960. I lost, but thank you for asking. Perhaps you would like me to take you through it hole by hole?

This talk of matchplay is relevant because starting on Wednesday is the first significant matchplay competition for professional golfers from all over the world since the US PGA Championship abandoned its traditional matchplay format and went to strokeplay in the late 1950s.

There is a real sense of anticipation at the thought of 64 of the world's best 65 players teeing off against one another in 32 matches. My one wish is that the matches were over 36 holes, not 18, because the longer the match, the less chance is involved. "It's like playing one set of tennis," Colin Montgomerie said. "Anything can happen."

Given the quality and the size of the field in Carlsbad, California, it is certain that at least one match will become clearly written into the annals of golf. There is so much at stake that caution will have to be thrown to the wind. "You will have to go for everything," Ernie Els said recently. "It's 18 holes and, if you lose your match, you are out. There is no second chance."

Many golfers these days, particularly those in the United States, where strokeplay is a way of life, struggle with the concept of matchplay. Believe me, learning how to play against an opponent rather than against a card is a form of golf worth learning.

Freddie Tait, the amateur champion who once drove the 18th green at St Andrews using a gutta percha ball, was as deft with words as he was prodigious from the tee. "Matchplay is the thing," Tait said. "Strokeplay is so much rifle shooting."

The hero is usually helpless, hapless or hopeless

## Leadbetter adds to lustre of tour

LIFE moves on apace for the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour (JGT). Not a ball has been struck in this season's competitions but the activities of the organisation become ever faster and more furious (Mel Webb writes).

Announcements of some fresh initiative have become almost commonplace for the JGT, whose executive director, Colin Springate, is tireless in his crusade to make the golfing experiences of his young charges richer and more rewarding.

Cutter and Buck, the golf clothing manufacturers, join the JGT's portfolio of sponsors and will clothe all members of the tour this season. The JGT, run in association with *The Times*, already takes its players to some of the finest golf courses in the United Kingdom and this season adds The Belfry to its repertoire.

Names in golf do not come much bigger than that of David Leadbetter. As enthusiastic a patron as any organisation could have, he is taking his backing for the JGT one step further. The Prospects Tour, the circuit for players from the ages of 18 to 21 which embarks on its first season, will be known as the David Leadbetter Prospects Tour.

Entries close for the JGT on February 26 and for the David Leadbetter Prospects Tour on March 12. All applications for entry forms should be accompanied by a stamped and addressed A4 envelope and should be sent to: PO Box 3227, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 8YN.

HOCKEY: LOUGHTONIANS LOSE FIREPOWER AS SOUTHGATE COMPLETE DOUBLE

## Rott hat-trick ignites Southgate comeback Cullen snatches vital point for Hightown

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

OLD LOUGHTONIANS generously entertained their sponsors and other guests at Chigwell yesterday, but the party was spoilt by Southgate, who came from behind twice to win the return National League premier division match 4-3. They had also won the previous game by the same score at Trent Park.

After scoring 11 goals in two matches last weekend, Old Loughtonians seemed to have lost some of their firepower. They made an encouraging start when Ingram put them ahead from Scott Smith's through pass in the 28th minute, but Rott levelled the score for Southgate from a short corner three minutes into the second half.

Smith converted a short corner five minutes later for a 2-1 lead which was soon erased by Rott, who completed his hat-trick after Moffatt had scored Southgate's third. Two minutes before the end Dover

reduced the lead for Old Loughtonians. Cannock, the title-holders and league leaders, also had to fight back for a 4-2 victory at home to Canterbury. Both sides were hit by injuries. Mathews and Hacker were missing from Canterbury and Cannock were without Johnson, Lewis and Thacker.

Humphries shot Canterbury into the lead in the 22nd minute, but Cannock hit back twice just before the interval with goals by Crutchley from a penalty stroke and Edwards from a short corner. Martin Jones, 18, scored Cannock's third goal and Crutchley the fourth from a short corner. Humphries obtained his second goal for Canterbury eight minutes before the end.

Reading finished a disappointing fifth in the B division of the European indoor club championship in Prague. The winners were Menzieshill of Scotland.

TINA CULLEN showed why she is the National League's all-time leading goalscorer when she steered Hightown to a 1-1 draw with Clifton on Saturday. She struck with superb last-minute equaliser to help her side maintain their place in the top four of the premier division.

While Cullen was snatching a vital point for the Merseyside team, Jane Smith, her Great Britain team-mate, was in prolific form, grabbing six for Slough, the champions, as they beat Doncaster 9-1. Ipswich remain top thanks to a brace of goals by Vicki Sandall in their 3-2 win away to Leicester and Sutton Coldfield moved clear of the relegation zone after beating Olton in the Midlands derby.

At Clifton, a slippery and very sandy artificial pitch saw conditions resemble the beach at Weston-super-Mare rather than a surface conducive to slick passing. The home team

created enough chances to have sealed victory in the first half but their finishing was poor and although they took the lead in the 51st minute through Denise Marston-Smith, Cullen was always a threat, despite the close marking of Rachel O'Bryan.

Maggie Souyave, the England coach, was full of praise for Cullen's goal. "Her finish was clinical — she would have known how much time was left and it was critical she took the opportunity." Eluding O'Bryan, she latched on to a cross from Debbie Mills and executed a perfect chip over the goalkeeper.

Chelmsford moved to the top of the first division after two goals by Julie Parrott helped to beat Loughborough Students, and Woking, the only unbeaten side in the league, stretched their lead at the head of the second division by virtue of beating Hampton-in-Arden.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand comes from the 1955 World Championship, which Great Britain won.

Dealer West	Game all	Teams
♠ 10 9 8	♠ A Q 8 5 4	♠ A Q 8
♥ K 8 5 4	♥ A Q	♥ 8 3
♦ J 5 5 2	♦ J 5 5 2	♦ 9 8 5 4
♣ J 7	♣ N E	♣ 7 6 4 3
♠ K 6 3 2	♠ S	
♠ A 0	♠ K 7 4	
	♠ A Q 10 9 2	
	♠ 10 7	
	♠ K 10 8	

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: three of diamonds.

The American in the West seat opened One Diamond and East raised to Two Diamonds. Terence Reese (South) competed with Two Hearts, which Boris Schapiro (North) raised to game.

The opening diamond lead was won with the queen. Reese drew trumps and cashed the ace of diamonds. He then led a small club from dummy to the ten and queen. West decided that his partner held the king of clubs, and anxious to avoid being on lead again he cashed his ace of clubs before playing a spade, permitting declarer to discard one of his losing spades on dummy's good clubs. West's defence was misguided; if declarer had three small clubs and AQx (or better) in spades, after West had cashed the ace of clubs declarer would still be able to make his contract by establishing dummy's long club.

Adam Meredith (Great Britain) regarded almost any

holding in the spade suit as biddable. Although this style put a considerable strain on his partner, who was seldom able to feel sure of Meredith's holding, it had the effect of making life very difficult for his opponents.

On this hand Meredith was West, and opened One Spade. Leslie Dodds raised to Two Spades, which became the final contract and made exactly.

Meredith's attitude to the spade suit was by no means consistent. During the same match he held:

♠ J 10 6 4 2  
♥ 8  
♦ K 10 5  
♣ J 6 4 2

His partner opened One Heart but, showing little confidence in his five-card spade suit, Meredith responded One No-Trump.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Linars

Hot on the heels of the elite tournament at Wijk aan Zee, a powerful competition has now started up in the Spanish town of Linars.

It is an eight-player tournament in which everyone plays everybody else twice. British interest will be fuelled by the presence of Michael Adams.

The full list of participants is: Garry Kasparov, Viswanathan Anand, Vladimir Kramnik, Vassily Ivanchuk, Peter Svidler, Michael Adams, Veselin Topalov and Peter Leko. As usual, as with all important events, the most important games and the full cross-table of results will appear in this column.

### Station X

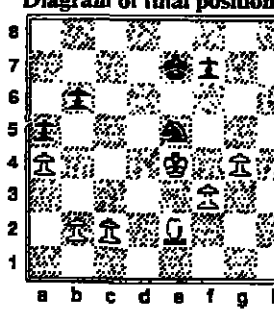
At this time the code-breakers of Station X at Bletchley Park devoted to solving the German Enigma during World War II are very much in the news. Many chess players were involved in the code-breaking work, notably Harry Golombek and Sir Stuart Milner-Barry, both chess correspondents for *The Times*, as well as C.H.O'D. Alexander, whose international career as a chess master was the best of all. Alexander himself was in charge of Hut 8, devoted to cracking the German naval Enigma.

Here is a fine game won by Alexander against a leading European grandmaster. White: C.H.O'D. Alexander. Black: Svetozar Gligoric. Staunton Memorial Birmingham, 1951.

### Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	Nc6
3 d4	cxd4
4 Nd4	Nf6
5 Nc3	e6
6 Bg5	Be7
7 Qd2	O-O
8 O-O	O-O
9 Nf3	a5
10 a4	Qb6
11 Qe3	Qb4
12 B3	b6
13 h4	c5
14 e5	Nb5
15 Rd5	Ng5
16 Bg5	Ba6
17 h5	Rc8
18 Ne4	e5
19 Bx3	Bf5
20 Nf6+	g6
21 g5	Qf4
22 Qd4	e4
23 Bx5	Rc6
24 Bx7+	Nf8
25 Bx4	Kf8
26 Bx7+	Ke8
27 Nc5	Rc8
28 Nd7+	Pd7
29 B5	Re1+
30 Re1	Rd5
31 Re4	Nd4
32 Bx5	B5
33 Bx6	Nx6
34 Bx4	Nc5
35 Re4	Nd7
36 g4	Rc6
37 Rf5	Nd5
38 Kd2	Nd7
39 Kc3	Ne5
40 Bx2	Black resigns
41 Kc4	

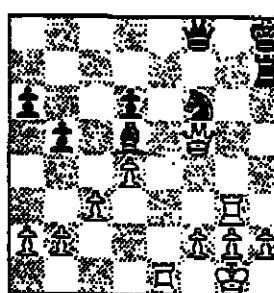
### Diagram of final position



### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This from the Schiller — Lobo game, San Francisco, 1998. A bishop and knight are often a good match for a rook, but here White's major pieces have excellent open lines. How did White conclude? Solution on page 43. Winning Move on Thursday was incorrect. We apologise.



### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

#### VERTICLE

- a. A dog-cart
- b. Passing through the zenith
- c. A vertebra

#### YOUNG

- a. The midriff
- b. A new boy at Westminster
- c. A suppressed bark

#### YUG

- a. Bulgarian yoghurt
- b. A mountain sledge
- c. An epoch

#### VARICELLA

- a. An Alpine plant
- b. Chicken-pox
- c. A wild Catalan dance

Answers on page 43



## **SAILING**

### **Garside battles to stay in the hunt**

**MIKE GARSIDE** is now the only Briton left in the depleted Around Alone race fleet and, once again, he is fighting more to hold on to second place overall in Class 2 than being able to mount a serious threat to the class leader, J.P. Moulligne, of France.

Whitehead said: "Bengalis have their centre of gravity in the right place. The smaller you are, the more you can buzz around. Bethnal Green also had a pretty lot of fixtures. Few boys in state schools play the game, so matches had to be arranged against independent schools. Whitehead said that this gave his boys a different outlook on life. "Several of the kids had never been out of London until they had their first away game," he said.

Akbar Hussain, one of the three members of the South-East England Under-15 team last year, said: "We felt different when we linked up with the rest of the squad. We were the only Asians there and there were only a few other schools represented." He admitted that when he started playing the game at the age of 11, he did not know there was such a sport as hockey.



ing county players and the sport received additional impetus when Simon Blandford arrived in 1987 to coach. He galvanised the school just as British hockey was on the crest of its Olympic success.

Fred Whitehead, the self-effacing head of PE for 27 years, remembered him with evident affection. "I learnt so much," he said. "His contribution was enormous."

The school had to overcome other difficulties. The change in the local population brought an influx of Bengalis. Despite their size and much parental indifference, the pupils found that they excelled at hockey.

Now he certainly knows. Several of the boys play for clubs: Masum Miah, a member of the England Under-16 squad, plays for Old Loughtonians and is now candidate for a grant from the world class potential programme of the English Sports Council.

Masum started hockey at primary school and finds much of the positional play similar to football. So does Abdul Momin, a former member of the England Under-16 squad, who was approached by Arsenal but preferred to concentrate on hockey.

As Whitehead says: "Football is still king in the East End but it's amazing what success can do for another sport."

## Allen snatches victory for Hightower

## THE TIMES NATWEST FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £3 payable to Fantasy Formula One. (For readers resident outside the UK and Republic of Ireland the fee is £15.) Post it to: **The Times NatWest Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ.** Your entry must be received by Wednesday, March 3, 1999 to qualify for the start of Australian GP.

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**GROUP C AND GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS**


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Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms  
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Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Day tel \_\_\_\_\_

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# ATHLETICS

## Track and field

**NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA** Birmingham. AAU indoor championships. First day. 100m: 15.81s, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 200m: 19.81s, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 400m: 1:00.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 800m: 2:00.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 1,600m: 4:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 3,200m: 9:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 6,400m: 19:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 12,800m: 39:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 25,600m: 79:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 51,200m: 159:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 102,400m: 319:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 204,800m: 639:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 409,600m: 1279:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 819,200m: 2559:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 1,638,400m: 5119:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 3,276,800m: 10239:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 6,553,600m: 20479:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 13,107,200m: 40959:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 26,214,400m: 81919:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 52,428,800m: 163839:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 104,857,600m: 327679:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 209,715,200m: 655359:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 419,430,400m: 1310719:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 838,860,800m: 2621439:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 1,677,721,600m: 5242879:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 3,355,443,200m: 10485719:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 6,710,886,400m: 20971539:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 13,421,772,800m: 41943079:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 26,843,545,600m: 83886159:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 53,687,091,200m: 167772319:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 107,374,182,400m: 335544639:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 214,748,364,800m: 671089279:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 429,496,729,600m: 1342177559:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 858,993,459,200m: 2684355119:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 1,717,986,918,400m: 5368710239:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 3,435,973,836,800m: 10737420479:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 6,871,947,673,600m: 21474840959:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 13,743,895,347,200m: 42949681919:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 27,487,790,694,400m: 85899363839:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 54,975,581,388,800m: 171798727679:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 109,951,162,777,600m: 343597455359:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 219,902,325,555,200m: 6871949107119:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 439,804,651,110,400m: 13743898214239:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 879,609,302,220,800m: 27487796428479:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 1,759,218,604,441,600m: 54975581656959:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 3,518,437,208,883,200m: 10995116327119:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 7,036,874,417,766,400m: 21990232654239:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 14,073,748,835,532,800m: 43980465308479:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 28,147,497,671,065,600m: 87960930616959:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 56,294,995,342,131,200m: 175921861239119:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 112,589,990,684,262,400m: 35184372247839:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 225,179,981,368,524,800m: 70368744495679:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 450,359,962,737,049,600m: 140737489911359:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 900,719,925,474,099,200m: 281474979822279:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 1,801,439,850,948,198,400m: 562949953644559:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 3,602,879,701,896,396,800m: 1125899816891119:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 7,205,759,403,792,793,600m: 225179963378239:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 14,411,518,807,585,587,200m: 450359927556479:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 28,823,037,615,171,175,400m: 900719955112959:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 57,646,075,230,342,350,800m: 1801439810225119:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 115,292,150,460,684,701,600m: 360287972044839:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 230,584,300,921,369,403,200m: 720575944089679:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 461,168,601,842,738,806,400m: 1441151881779159:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 922,337,203,685,477,612,800m: 280359403559239:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 1,844,674,407,370,955,225,600m: 560719807118479:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 3,689,348,814,741,910,451,200m: 112135161436959:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 7,378,697,629,483,820,902,400m: 224270322873919:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 14,757,395,258,967,645,804,800m: 448540645747839:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 29,514,790,517,935,291,609,600m: 897081291495679:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. 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Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 483,570,327,773,053,067,587,587,400m: 146875013413219:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 967,140,655,546,106,114,114,224,224,800m: 293750026826439:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 1,934,281,311,092,212,228,228,448,448,600m: 587500053652879:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 3,868,562,622,184,424,448,448,896,896,200m: 117500010737059:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 7,737,125,244,368,848,896,896,1792,1792,400m: 23500002147419:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 15,474,250,489,737,697,793,793,3584,3584,800m: 47000004294839:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. 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Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 126,765,056,395,929,600,1617920,1617920,29360128,29360128,600m: 385024003518239:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 253,530,112,791,859,200,3235840,3235840,58720256,58720256,200m: 770048007036479:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 507,060,225,583,718,400,6471680,6471680,117440512,117440512,400m: 1540096001407119:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 1,014,120,451,167,436,800,12943360,12943360,234881024,234881024,800m: 3080192002814239:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 2,028,240,902,334,873,600,25886720,25886720,469762048,469762048,600m: 6160384005628479:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 4,056,481,804,669,747,200,51773440,51773440,939524096,939524096,200m: 123207680011256959:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 8,112,963,609,338,494,400,103546880,103546880,1879048192,1879048192,400m: 2464153600225139:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 16,225,927,218,676,988,800,207093760,207093760,3758096384,3758096384,800m: 4928307200450279:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 32,451,854,437,353,977,600,414187520,414187520,7516192768,7516192768,600m: 9676614400900559:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 64,903,708,874,707,955,200,828375040,828375040,15032385536,15032385536,200m: 19353228800180119:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 129,807,417,749,411,910,400,1656750080,1656750080,30064771136,30064771136,400m: 3888645760036039:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 259,614,835,498,823,800,3313500160,3313500160,60129542272,60129542272,800m: 7777291520072079:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 519,229,670,997,647,600,6627000320,6627000320,120259084544,120259084544,600m: 15554582400144159:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 1,038,459,341,995,295,200,13254000640,13254000640,240518169088,240518169088,200m: 31109164800288319:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 2,076,918,683,990,590,400,26508001280,26508001280,481036338176,481036338176,400m: 62218329600576639:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 4,153,837,367,981,180,800,53016002560,53016002560,962072676352,962072676352,800m: 124436659200115279:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 8,307,674,735,962,361,600,106032005120,106032005120,1924145342704,1924145342704,600m: 24887331840023059:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 16,615,349,471,924,723,200,2120640010240,2120640010240,3848290685408,3848290685408,200m: 49774663680046119:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 33,230,698,943,849,446,400,4241280020480,4241280020480,7696581370816,7696581370816,400m: 99449327360092239:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 66,461,397,887,698,892,800,8482560040960,8482560040960,15393162741632,15393162741632,800m: 1981186547200184479:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. 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King (United States). 2,126,764,732,400,636,617,600,271441921310720,271441921310720,492581207725024,492581207725024,600m: 59166768400059119:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 4,253,529,464,800,1273238402621440,1273238402621440,985162415450048,985162415450048,200m: 1179167368000117919:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 8,507,058,929,600,2546476805242880,2546476805242880,1970324830900096,1970324830900096,400m: 2358334736000235839:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 17,014,117,859,200,5092953601045760,5092953601045760,3940649661800192,3940649661800192,800m: 4716669472000471669:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 34,028,235,718,400,10185907202091520,10185907202091520,7881299323600384,7881299323600384,600m: 9441338944000944139:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 68,056,471,436,800,20371814404183040,20371814404183040,15762598647200768,15762598647200768,200m: 188026788800018802679:30.10, 1. C. Bailey (Great Britain), 2. D. Chalmers (Great Britain), 3. K. King (United States). 136,112,942,873,600,40743628808366080,4074362880



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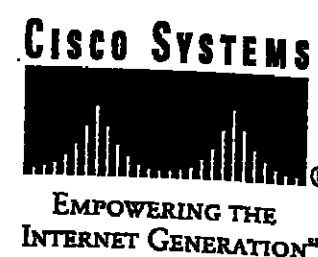
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# One American miracle at a time

The US economy has played the role of spender of first resort for the world. But American leaders are getting tired of it, as they doubtless managed to convey over the weekend at the G7 meeting in Bonn. Their European counterparts could content themselves with the thought that the Americans will not be able to gloat for much longer because strong US economic performance is unsustainable. But what will our fate be when the Americans no longer have reason to gloat?

There have apparently been two "miracles" in America — the one to do with demand and the other to do with supply. The first is a transitory miracle, but the second is real and long-lasting. It is not American asset prices and rampant consumption that show the way for Europe, but American investment and job creation. Current US economic performance is unsustainable. Not only has the personal savings ratio turned negative, but the trade deficit with the rest of the world is high and rising. Moreover, there is a candidate explanation for these related phenomena, namely the tremendous rise in US stock prices. Saving is a fine thing, but it is especially attractive if you can get someone else to do it for you.

Americans think that the stock market is doing it for them. As they watch the value of their assets rise, they can borrow for consumption without turning a hair. And they can both have fun and make money by trading on the Internet — in Internet stocks. This is America caught up in bubble.com.

If you take this view, it is tempting to believe that the whole edifice of US economic success is about to collapse. Yet consider what has happened to supply. For several years now, most economists have been gloomy about US growth prospects. They thought that even if demand carried on growing strongly because the American consumer kept on spending, as the rate of unemployment fell, inflation would resurge and the recovery would have to be choked off by higher interest rates. Yet unemployment continued to fall without inflation raising its head above the parapet. In fact, it fell. For good measure, it looked as though the trend rate of growth may have speeded up. The implication is that America can both grow faster and have less unemployment.

We cannot yet be sure of the reasons for this, but we do have the beginning of an explanation. It lies in the sphere of technological and organisational change — the vast investment in computers and communications technology and the impact of both technology and globalisation on the competitive climate. None of this has been remotely dependent upon the strength of consumer spending, and is only tangentially related to the strength of the stock market.

True, if consumer spending were to weaken severely, perhaps prompted by a stock market collapse, then immediate economic performance would deteriorate. GDP growth would slow and perhaps even turn negative, but this would be simply a short-term demand phenomenon. It would not alter the fundamental improvement in growth trends and capacity utilisation. These improvements would be there waiting to show themselves again when demand recovered. And recovery it would, helped, no doubt, by lower interest rates. Although you would not think it from current Japanese experience, boosting demand is relatively easy. Boosting supply capacity is the really difficult thing.

So the two "miracles" are different. But are they related? Is there any reason to suppose that the end of one would automatically undermine the other? There is one argument. It is that the apparent transformation of the US unemployment/inflation relationship is itself a mirage created by the depressed state of the world economy and the coincidence of a large trade deficit and a strong dollar. This has caused low commodity prices and low prices for manufactured goods entering the US. Take that away and inflation would be a good deal higher and that would set off higher wages. Moreover, if US consumption weakened severely, then the restoration of overall demand would require either a revival of the world economy or a lower dollar. Either of these would raise US inflation. So we would quickly be back to the old conditions. Those gloomy economists who had been giving warning that unemployment had already fallen below the natural rate would have the last laugh after all.

But I find this story difficult to buy. The unbalanced nature of the US economy, with consumption increasing so fast in relation to exports, has itself presented inflationary threats, not least in real estate. Weakness of consumption would ease those pressures while increased demand for US exports would raise demand in many sectors where costs do not rise with increased production. Higher commodity prices would cause inflation to be a bit higher, at least temporarily, but a post-industrial economy such as the US is not very vulnerable to commodity prices. Moreover, we now have untempered examples of lower exchange rates causing remarkably little pick-up in inflation.

Let us hope that European leaders are not deceived into thinking that the US economic miracle is an illusion created by the bubble in asset markets. The US story has been of real economic improvement given rein by a strong increase in demand. In Europe, the past two years have seen continued economic failure disguised by a modest cyclical recovery. And from last Friday's German figures, it seems clear that even that is petering out. American asset prices may not be able to carry on rising to the stratosphere, but that does not undermine the remarkable performance of the American economy. One economic miracle is quite enough.



ROGER BOOTLE

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## Three's company

Births, Marriages and Deaths  
BBC2, 9.00pm

Here is a terrific three-part drama by Tony Grounds (*Our Boy and Sex and Chocolate*). Adrian Shergold (who made *Holding On*) directs a very strong cast, headed by Ray Winstone, Mark Strong and Phil Davis as lifelong best mates in East London. On the eve of Strong's wedding (to a heavily pregnant mother with two boys by her previous husband), they go on an all-day stag do which ends in a way that is a catalyst for profound changes in all their lives. Winstone is magnificently leery and overbearing. Davis is utterly convincing as the turning worm. Strong, both touching and impressive in his devotion to his new family. Add great work by the wives — Maggie O'Neill, Tessa Peake-Jones and Michelle Fairley — and slick editing, and you have a guaranteed gripper of an opening episode which the second and third will have difficulty surpassing.

To the Ends of the Earth  
Channel 4, 8pm

What a bright idea: take Lord Porchester, the greatest-grandson of the 5th earl of Carnarvon, to Egypt to visit the tomb of Tutankhamun, which the old boy and Howard Carter discovered in 1922. Carnarvon died, weeks later, of septicæmia — cursed, they said, for his desecration. Lord P, the first family member to risk reviving the curse, goes out to visit the tomb. A prequel (you mean you don't have one?) as he excavates a rather less spectacular tomb near King Tut's, in search of fresh artefacts for the collection at the family seat, Highclere. Adrian Wile, who manages Highclere and is far grander than his master, provides much of the entertainment in an intriguing film.

Rough Guide to the World: Bolivia  
BBC2, 7.30pm

There are new presenters, Edith Bowman and Dimitri Donskoi, for a new series of the cheap-and-cheerful holiday show (not always cheap or cheerful, but always "with attitude", like Tube



Ray Winstone and Mark Strong in *Births, Marriages and Deaths* (BBC2, 9pm)

buskers or some Big Issue vendors). Tonight's country, Bolivia, is one of the least touristy and developed countries of South America: poor, beautiful and bordered by Brazil, Peru, Chile, Argentina and Paraguay. It has rich mineral resources and also produces quite a lot of cocaine. The presenters concentrate on the mountains, lakes and the mining, but can't entirely ignore the coca.

Mrs Merton and Malcolm  
BBC1, 8.30pm

Caroline Aherne and her co-writer on *The Royal Family*, Craig Cash, star in a strange new sitcom which they have written with Henry Normal. Only child Malcolm is 37 and still living at home in suburban Stockport. He appears either educationally subnormal or "simple", quite often absenting himself from work (Mrs Merton phones in sick for him). Mrs Merton dotes on him but is oddly off-hand about Mr Merton, who is confined to the conjugal bed, upstairs, visible as a shape under the covers but never speaking on camera. The only visitor is Mr Caspich (Brian Murphy), who has a dodgy picker and repeats himself endlessly. There are some good lines, but the whole thing is eerie rather than funny. Tony Patrick

### RADIO CHOICE

Silent Sentences  
Radio 4, 5.00pm

The woman whose recollections start this series sets the tone for an absorbing programme that will challenge many preconceptions. "It wasn't that I couldn't face people," she says, "it wasn't that I was ashamed, I just couldn't stop crying." The reason for her distress was that her husband had been sent to prison. The series focuses on what happens to families when one of their number is jailed. We hear much about crime and sentencing, not much about the victims of crime within the families of those who are jailed. Some of the points made are subtly important: prisoners may earn extra visits through good behaviour, but that only increases the tension if families cannot afford the travel costs to distant prisons.

### RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Scott Mills 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00pm Jo Whiley 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearson, Medley 6.30am Peter Dinkley 5.00 The Sportszone 6.00am James White 1.00pm Ian Collins and the Creators of the Night

### RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00pm John Inverdale 2.00pm Steve Wright 3.00pm Johnnie Walker 7.00pm Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00pm Big Band Special 9.30pm Joe's Holland (4/13) 9.30pm Mark Lamarr: Shake, Rattle and Roll (5/10) 10.30pm Richard Ainsworth 12.00am Kathryn Leskanen 3.00am Alex Lester

### RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

6.00am Morning Reports 6.00 News 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00pm The Midday News 1.00pm Russco and Co 4.00pm Drive 7.00pm News Extra 7.30pm Dream Team. New series. Jim White chats to celebrities who live for football 8.00pm John Inverdale's Football Forum. With an Chelsea striker Mark Bright, the Wimbledon midfielder Robbie Earle and the Brentford manager and chairman Ron Noades 10.00pm Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

### TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 8.00am Scott Chisholm 12.00pm The Talk Show 1.00pm Radio 4.00pm Peter Dinkley 5.00pm The Sportszone 6.00am James White 1.00pm Ian Collins and the Creators of the Night

### VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30am Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00pm Harriet Scott 8.40pm Peter and Gary 10.00pm Mark Forrest 1.00am James Merrett 4.30pm Richard Allen

### RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Music and arts news with Petroc Trelawny, including a review of the British stage premiere of Delius's opera *The Magic Fountain*. Masterworks with Peter Hall, including Fasch (Gessoon Concerto in C minor), Schmitt (Piano Sonata in D, 1864), Strauss (Don Juan). 10.30am Artist of the Week. This week, Joan Bakewell talks to French pianist Pascal Rogier. 11.00am Soundbite. The pianist David Baker explores music associated with Jupiter. 12.00pm Composer of the Week. Aaron Copland. 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from the programme featuring the baritone Simon Keenlyside with Malcolm Martensau, piano. 10.45am Minding It. Leo Felton talks to Mark Russell and Robert Sandall about his passion for new music. 11.30am Jazz. The pianist Benny Green talks to Alyn Shipton and leads his own quartet at the Bull. 12.00am Composer of the Week. Antonin Dvorak. 1.00pm Through the Night with David Mace. 2.00pm Beethoven's Spring Quartets in B flat, Op. 18 No. 6, in E flat, Op. 74, in B flat, Op. 130, 2.35pm Foulness. Organ Concerto. 3.00pm Music Box. 3.15pm Something to Think About. 3.30pm Let's Make a Story. 3.45pm Stories and Rhymes. 4.00pm Finding Out. 4.15pm Mavis Cheevers. 4.30pm Hopscotch. 4.45pm Scottish Screen. 7.00pm Beethoven (Wellingtons Sieg) 8.20pm Bach (Cantata No 35) 8.45pm Ravel (La Valse)

### RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40am News 5.45am Prayer for the Day 5.47am Today's Programme by Charlotte Smith 6.00am Today with Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie 9.00am The Week Discussion programme, hosted by Jeremy Paxton. 9.45am (FM) Series: The Spirit Wrestlers Part one. Philip Marsden seeks the forgotten radicals of post-Soviet Russia. 9.45am (FM) Daily Services from St Martin's, Belfast. 10.00am Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests. 11.00am Turning Into Children. Kirsty Wark looks at how children develop a sense of their own identity (26). 11.30am King of the Hothouse. A satirical concert in a special week-long series from Glasgow which focuses on the influence of non-Western sounds on the European and American classical tradition. 12.00pm (FM) News 12.04pm News and John Wale. 1.00pm News Headlines: Shipping Forecast. 1.10pm The World at One with Nick Clarke. 1.30pm Composer of the Week. The pianist Simon Keenlyside with Malcolm Martensau, piano. 2.00pm The Archers. Yesterday's edition. 2.15pm Afternoon Play: Hush. Philip Marsden's tale of slavery in the 19th century. Anyon Bakare and Gareth Croftman. 3.00pm Money Box Live. 0870 010 0444. Vincent Duggles takes listeners' calls on financial issues. 3.30pm A View with a Room. A look at the small hotel in one of Scotland's wildest and most remote places. 3.45pm The Soapbox. Anna Massey narrates part 36 of the history of Britain. 4.00pm The Food Programme. Derek Cooper examines the emergence of gourmet soup bars. 4.30pm Turning World. John Murray and guests look at human interest stories from around the world. 5.00pm Presented by Clara English and Chris Lowe.

# Alliances point way to a more prosperous Liffe

Revolution at the exchange is promising a brighter future, Martin Waller writes



Liffe has captured 86 per cent of all euro money market business and the volume of such trading has risen 16 per cent since January 1

The escalators that lead up to Liffe, the futures trading market at Cannon Street in the City, are long and steep. "Do not sit on the escalator," a sign says at the bottom. Such horseplay could be dangerous. Instead, the preferred method of exit for some of the younger traders is to brace each foot against the metal sides at the top and slide down rapidly without allowing their feet to touch the treads. It, too, looks dangerous. It probably is. But Liffe is all about risk.

It is now six months since Brian Williamson arrived to take the chairmanship of the London International Financial Futures and Options Ex-

change (Liffe) at the low point in its 15-year history. The previous months had seen the board of Liffe in apparent paralysis, unable to stem the loss of business to Frankfurt. The former Deutsche Termimborse, now united with the Swiss and Austrian exchanges and renamed Eurex, had stolen more than half the trade in one of Liffe's most actively traded contracts, the German government bond, by offering a screen-based dealing system.

In London, the decision to offer an electronic alternative to "open outcry", or face-to-face trading, had been taken in March. But critics said this was too little and too late.

By August it became obvious that the old guard could not stay. Mr Williamson, one of the founders of Liffe but then chairman of Gerrard, a Liffe member firm, was brought in, to be joined in October by Hugh Freedberg as chief executive.

"Clearly, in August, the huge priority was to dispel the thinking that Liffe was dedicated to open outcry and less committed to its electronic system," Mr Williamson said.

"The second thing was to make sure we brought on Connect [Liffe's electronic trading system] as fast as possible. We were clearly in a vulnerable area in relation to the euro."

"We made it very clear that this exchange regarded the move to electronic trading as something upon which its future depended. From there on, things started to get much better."

Mr Williamson's first response was to initiate a programme of consultation with members to find out exactly what they wanted. Meanwhile, the rolling programme to bring Liffe's various products on to electronic trading was brought forward.

"The previous regime had chosen the largest-volume contracts to go on machine first," he said, while saying that his remarks should not be taken as a criticism. "In an ideal world the decision would perhaps have been the other way around."

"There was no way you could reverse the process without extending the timetable. Clearly, it was better to reduce the time than change the order. By October we were beginning to get a feel that the Liffe Connect system for its first task, equity options, was looking quite good." Then came crunch day. Equity options went online for the first time on November 30.

In a low-key announcement ten days ago, the exchange announced a further acceleration. International bond futures contracts would trade electronically a month earlier than planned, and a firm date was

set for several other products. The new business figures that have been made available so far this year, though inevitably selective, are encouraging.

In January daily trade at the exchange was up 47 per cent from the previous month, helped by the launch of the Euribor Futures contract after the birth of the euro. Liffe has captured 86 per cent of all euro money market business, and the volume of such business has grown by 16 per cent since January 1.

The period since Mr Williamson's arrival has been marked by repeated rumours of alliance with various parties, including other exchanges and, according to one story, even with Frankfurt, a suggestion given added strength by last summer's link between the London Stock Exchange and the German equities market there.

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the LCH rapidly becoming the international clearing house of choice," Mr Williamson said. "We need to ensure that the LCH is the global players' choice, that it is the place they settle at the end of the day."

Observers, however, cast some doubt on how keen the LCH might be on such a merger. Although it is too early to see what the future shape of Liffe will be, those post-euro turnover figures at least allow a mood of quiet triumphalism at Cannon Street. But one event shows how fast such a mood can evaporate. Just before Christmas a rogue trader dealing in German government bonds racked up more than £6 million in losses, putting the jobs of as many as 100 sole traders at risk and leaving them with substantial losses.

The Griffin affair is still the subject of investigation by the authorities, although at least some of the blame rests with Eurex, the renamed Frankfurt exchange through which the deals were done.

Whatever the outcome of the inquiry, it will strengthen calls for stronger regulation at derivatives exchanges. Those who lost money have been assured they will see at least 80 per cent of it back, and it has become clear that regulation on Liffe is already far stricter than at Eurex. In this at least, the damage from Griffin has been limited.

This Thursday's extraordinary meeting will be a further step on the way to a stock market flotation for Liffe. "It's a start towards a shareholders' exchange. We're trying to get a business culture in the exchange, not a membership culture," Mr Williamson said.

One of the most vociferous critics of the old regime was David Kye, of Kye Group, who resigned from the Liffe board. Kye Group is now firmly convinced that the future lies in electronic trading — whatever this means for Liffe as we know it.

Paul Wise, a director of Kye Group, is persuaded that there has been a change for the better at the exchange. "There was a fear of making the wrong decision, so no decisions were being made. Now they're pushing screens as hard and as fast as they can. I think over ten to 20 years the size of the market will explode. Over the years it will need a new set of skills, and some of the people on the floor won't make the transition."

One option, clearly favoured by Mr Williamson, is a merger with the London Clearing House, which settles business for banks and other traders, and in which Liffe already has a 17 per cent stake. "I think one of the best things that has happened since I have been here is

ing a number of parties identified as possibly interested in alliances or joint ventures. By the end of next month a full list will have been drawn up and before that he is unwilling to comment. Links could be merely a matter of making screen dealing through Liffe's Connect system more freely available elsewhere — indeed, he is talking down the possibility of merging directly with other trading exchanges, once seen as the most likely option. "It may be old-fashioned to say that exchanges will survive by putting two, three or four of them together."

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# Loyalty taken to a barbaric extreme

They are always some mother's son, aren't they? They are only human, after all. Just like you and me. And they want you to understand. Loyalties (BBC2, Sunday), the first of Peter Taylor's three-part investigation of Ulster's Protestant paramilitaries, was one of those "difficult" documentaries where television confuses people who have done unspeakable, unforgivable things and hears what they have got to say for themselves.

Among their little achievements was the murder of an Irish Senator, Paddy Wilson, and his female companion. He was stabbed 30 times, his throat slit from ear to ear. Years later, the man who did it, John White, went to Downing Street as the leader of a Protestant paramilitary delegation and shook hands with John Major.

Then there was McGuirk's bar. One bomb, 15 funerals: it was

recalled. The clientele were Catholics, so clearly nationalists, so clearly supporters of the IRA, self-evidently intent on forcing secession on the Protestants. Then there was the 17-year-old boy, plucked at random from the Catholic population, and shot without hesitation, pity or remorse.

Documentaries like this walk a tightrope. The purpose is to understand, so the murderers must be questioned in a calm, rational, non-confrontational way, without appearing actually to be sympathetic. Peter Taylor achieved this by quietly inviting them to reflect on what they had done.

But the programme found other ways of letting us know what Taylor and co thought. The title sequence, for instance, was a montage of sinister images in some dark, dank, secret room, which ended with a vivid red hand

of Ulster smashing through a pane of glass towards the viewer's face. Each talking head appeared against a pitch black background as if they were all lost in their own private darkness.

Some of them seemed to regret what they had done, but most were unrepentant or had adopted their own actions as if they were talking about someone else. All wished to explain their anger and what seemed to them the inevitability of their decisions. If we didn't get it, that was our problem.

Perhaps now they have seen the final programme they will feel cheated. They may well feel that Taylor had an agenda. The intercutting of a simple historical chronicle, which did not dwell on IRA atrocities, highlighted their deeds as a series of massive over-reactions, so unreasonable as to appear paranoid.

## REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

so vicious and cruel as to appear psychotic.

The one thing you can say in these men's favour is that, repentant or not, they did not try to disguise what they had done or pretend that they were victims of forces beyond their control. "My decision and made by me and me alone," said Jim Light of a cold-blooded murder. "I pulled the trigger." Their ghastly candour

gave the programme an extraordinary force, and provided a sickening contrast to the mealy-mouthed not-me-guilty-of-Dylan Paisley. Confronted with the fact that close followers of his political organisation and a member of his church had committed various atrocities, he first equivocated: "Closely involved with me? I don't know whether you can say that or not..." then washed his hands: "I can't be responsible for everybody that's in a church that I pastor or an organisation that I lead."

It surely cannot be an accident that this series arrives at a time when the issue of decommissioning weapons has sparked a bitter debate among the Protestant politicians. It certainly won't help the hardliners as they tussle with the moderates over the soul of their community.

Northern Ireland is Britain's little slice of the Balkans, a

never-ending riotous of pre-emptive strikes, unsettled scores and lovingly nurtured grievances. Before the resurgence of "the Troubles" in the late 1960s the province had the lowest crime rate in the UK. I spent a long summer there in 1967 with the family of a friend in Ballymena. We got occasional glimpses of the lurking sectarian hatred, but in general I was stunned by the warmth and hospitality we met everywhere.

It seems impossible that such kind, friendly people could treat each other with such barbarism, except that there is probably a little concentration camp guard lurking in the murky depths of our souls, which will pop out as and when it is given an excuse to do so. Fortunately there is also an angel of mercy buried in there somewhere too.

Angels of mercy were flapping about all over the place in Comic

Relief's Great Big Excellent African Adventure (BBC1, Sunday). It is easy to be cynical about celebrities and their charity work. You could say that there is little difference between "alternative" comedians doing good in the developing world and the old variety turns polishing their egos on underprivileged backs.

And it would be easy to find the forced wackiness of Lenny Henry and his co-presenters deeply irritating. But how do you describe the plight of landless South Africans or the children of Zanzibar without sounding sanctimonious or pious? The message that these are ordinary people in extraordinarily difficult circumstances, who need help to help themselves rather than hand-outs, cannot be repeated often enough. I don't know which was more awe-inspiring, the gorgeous landscape of Lesotho or what Ruby Wax can do with her tongue.

- 6.00am Business Breakfast** (72700)  
**7.00 BBC Breakfast News** (96629)  
**9.00 Kilroy** (8725209)  
**9.45 The Vanessa Show** (1) (4051884)  
**10.05 News** (96629)  
**11.00 Change That** (6206025)  
**11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (1) (6103884)  
**11.55 News** (96629)  
**12.00pm Call My Bluff** (92396)  
**12.30 Wipeout** (7916713)  
**12.55 The Weather Show** (1) (4892735)  
**1.00 One O'Clock News** (91715)  
**1.30 Regional News** (4764803)  
**1.40 Neighbours** (3687919)  
**2.05 Inside** (1) (3687919)  
**2.55 Through the Keyhole** (1) (5831209)  
**3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays** (6854938)  
**3.45 The Littlest Pet Shop** (2731822)  
**3.55 Bodge and Badger** (3708613)  
**4.10 Pocket Dragon Adventures** (4751803)  
**4.20 Anthony and the Mice** (4751803)  
**4.35 Miffy** (5611803)  
**5.00 Newsround** (2086071)  
**5.08 Rewind** (5041261)  
**5.10 Blue Peter** (6363613)  
**5.35 Neighbours** (1) (722984)  
**6.00 Six O'Clock News** (96629)  
**6.30 Regional News** (4764803)  
**7.00 This is Your Life** (1) (8938)  
**7.30 Watchdog** (3687919)  
**8.00 EastEnders** (3687919)



Caroline Aherne and Craig Cash as the Mertons (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Mrs Merton and Malcolm** (8.30pm)  
**9.00 One O'Clock News** (96629)  
**9.30 Animal** (3687919)  
**10.00 Panorama** (3687919)  
**10.45 Billy Connolly's World Tour** (1) (708984)  
**11.25 Smith and Jones** (1) (279532)  
**11.55 The Day of the Evil Gun** (1986)  
**12.00 The Simpsons** (1) (708984)  
**12.25am Weather** (158101)  
**1.30 BBC News** (24763781)

- Wales**  
**8.00 Labour of Love** (1) (93025)  
**8.30 Panorama** (3687919)  
**9.00 Connolly's World Tour** (1) (708984)  
**11.25 Smith and Jones** (1) (279532)  
**11.55 The Day of the Evil Gun** (1986)  
**12.00 The Simpsons** (1) (708984)  
**12.25am Weather** (158101)  
**1.30 BBC News** (24763781)

- For further listings see Saturday's Vision**

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**COMPANIES 43**  
**BAe chief's**  
**Ordnance**  
**view awaited**

# BUSINESS

**US STORY 46**  
**Roger Bootle**  
**on a lasting**  
**'miracle'**



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY FEBRUARY 22 1999

## BT could be white knight in battle for Telecom Italia

By RICHARD MILES

BRITISH TELECOM emerged last night as a potential white knight for Telecom Italia, the former state utility which is the target of a \$60 billion (£36 billion) hostile bid by Olivetti, the Italian telecoms group.

While BT declined to comment on market speculation that it might intervene, analysts were quick to name the British operator as a likely candidate to offer to take a stake

in Telecom Italia by way of an alliance.

Olivetti unveiled its takeover plans by disclosing an agreement to sell its holdings in Omnitel and Infostrada, Italy's fast-growing mobile and fixed-line telecoms companies, to its partner Mannesmann, the German industrial and media conglomerate.

The sale of these holdings would raise DM14.9 billion (£5.1 billion) towards Olivetti's highly leveraged,

10 euros per share bid for Telecom Italia. The price represents a 10 per cent premium to the Friday closing price of Telecom Italia's shares, which have soared in the last few days on talk of a possible deal.

Olivetti intends to borrow heavily to finance the bid, paying six euros in cash, 2.6 euros in bonds and 1.4 euros in newly issued shares through a wholly owned subsidiary, Tecnost. The company claims it has substantial support

from its shareholders for the ambitious acquisition.

Sources close to Olivetti said that Roberto Colaninno, the managing director who has turned around the computer company since joining in 1996, was keen to inject similar management disciplines at Telecom Italia, which has lost its way since privatisation two years ago.

Under the leadership of Signor Colaninno, Olivetti's share price rose 280 per cent in 1997 and 500

per cent in the following year, as he transformed the company by selling off under-performing businesses, including the computing interest on which the company's name was founded. Nonetheless, with a market capitalisation of £44 billion, Telecom Italia remains seven times larger than Olivetti.

For regulatory reasons, Olivetti has framed its offer as an intent to bid. Approval will be required from the Italian Treasury, which still has

a 3 per cent stake in the utility. The authorities would also have to approve the sale of the holdings in Omnitel and Infostrada, because the deal would involve the transfer of licences and concessions.

The sale of the holdings - Olivetti owns 100 per cent of Infostrada and controls Omnitel through a joint venture - to Mannesmann would be entirely conditional on the completion of the Telecom Italia deal. If its bid is successful, Olivetti

would become the fourth largest telecoms company in Europe.

Industry sources suggested yesterday that executives from Telecom Italia had considered launching a counter-bid. News of this had triggered Olivetti's earlier than expected statement of intent on Saturday evening.

Antonio Tesone, chairman of Olivetti, gave warning yesterday that Telecom Italia was vulnerable to a "foreign offensive" if its bid failed.

## William Hill sale angers Warburgs

By DOMINIC WALSH AND ROBERT LEA

COLLAPSE of the William Hill flotation at the weekend has been followed by bitter recriminations from within Warburg Dillon Read, broker to the issue, which was kept in the dark over the plans by Nomura, the bookmaker's owner, to instigate a trade sale.

Warburgs was informed of the decision to sell the chain to Civen and CVC Capital Partners, the venture capitalists, for £825 million just minutes before Nomura announced the deal on Saturday afternoon.

Insiders at Warburgs, furious at their treatment by Nomura, claimed that if it had known of the possibility of such a deal it could have achieved a satisfactory flotation price. "If we had been aware of this, it would have effectively underwritten the flotation. We could have approached the institutions from a position of strength and used it to exert pressure on them rather than having to slash the price to get it away," said a source.

The deal, which is equivalent to 150p a share, follows a dramatic week in which War-

burgs' inability to attract support from big City investors at the indicative price range of 155p to 175p led to the offer price being cut to just 135p, or £780 million including debt. The price cut resulted in the institutional issue being almost three times oversubscribed.

Nomura admitted yesterday that it had first been approached by Civen with an indicative offer of £825 million in December. When the price cut was announced its merchant bank advisers contacted Civen and CVC. Michael Smith, CVC chairman, said: "There was an element of opportunity in this."

The events leave question marks over Nomura's future relationship with the City, which it will have to deal with when negotiating the exit from the string of businesses that it has built up, including the large pub businesses, the Unique Pub Company and Innkeeper.

One analyst said: "The lesson seems to be that the venture capital market is paying more for mid-range stocks than the IPO [initial public offering] market. But for how long can venture capitalists go on selling businesses to each other? What will be the exit route for William Hill next time around? Warburgs is to be paid an "abort fee" rather than the estimated £7 million or so from floating the bookmaker."

rate of 5 per cent, which for those who applied for the minimum of £1,000 of shares comes to just £2. Refunds will be posted by March 1. Nearly 90,000 private investors paid £166 million through the share shops dealing with the issue.

One customer welcomed the free bet as "a bit of fun" but Françoise Gautier, from Surrey, said: "The interest is a joke and the free bet is an insult. I never go near betting shops."

### INVESTORS' FREE BET COMPENSATION

PRIVATE investors who applied for William Hill shares will get a goodwill compensation payment together with a voucher entitling them to a free £20 bet in one of the chain's 1,500 shops.

The voucher is for a "double" bet on the Worthington Lincoln on March 27 and the Grand National on April 10. They will also receive the equivalent of two weeks' interest on their money at an annu-



Glenda Jackson, left and Emma Thompson campaigning against Railtrack's £20 million plan for West Hampstead station

By FRASER NELSON

GLENDIA JACKSON, the Transport Minister, is heading a campaign to stop Railtrack building a £20 million high-rise retail complex in her Hampstead and Highgate constituency in North London.

Ms Jackson has backed local shopkeepers and residents who believe that Railtrack's plan to build glass-walled buildings containing supermarkets, restaurants and flats on its land at West Hampstead station will ruin the environment. The campaign against the proposals has been joined by Emma Thompson, a fellow Oscar-winning actress and local resident.

## MP fights to stop Railtrack project arriving at station

The planned West Hampstead development is one of four at neglected stations in London that Railtrack is planning to refurbish. The scheme will cost a total of £48 million, but it is intended that it will be financed from the returns on the newly built offices and shops at each location.

proving the station, but I don't think their designs are appropriate for West Hampstead."

Emma Thompson, who has lived in West Hampstead since childhood, is understood to have offered to help to hand out leaflets campaigning against the development, which will include the tallest building in the area by far, containing 116 apartments.

Ms Jackson is playing down traders' hope that her clout in Whitehall will lead to Railtrack backing down. She said: "I'm not responsible for what's on Railtrack's mind. I am acting as a local MP here - I cannot act as Transport Minister because I have clear constituency interests."

## Ministers in G7 vow to help debtor nations

By RICHARD MILES

FINANCE ministers from the Group of Seven industrial nations have pledged to speed up debt relief for some of the world's poorest countries.

After meeting in Bonn, the G7 ministers said they would reach a deal by June on how to improve the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, launched in 1996 under the umbrella of the International Monetary Fund. Only a few countries, such as Uganda and Bolivia, have met the strict criteria for HIPC relief.

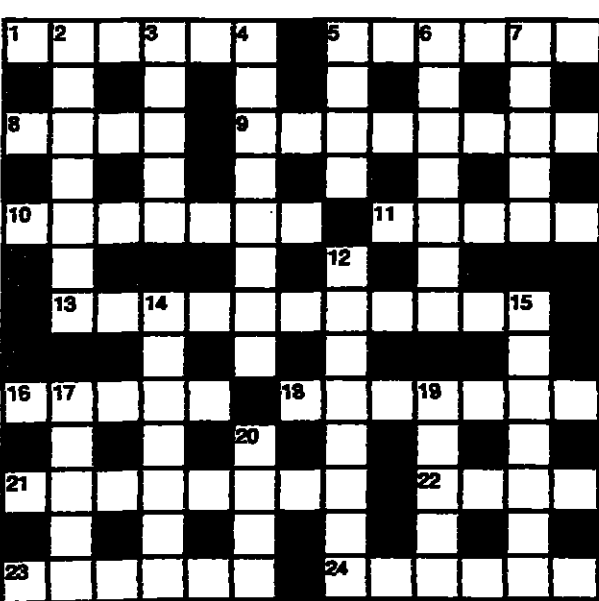
A breakthrough was made possible by the conversion of Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, who wants to cut the six-year track record required of countries before they qualify. Britain also wants to relax criteria for debt levels.

The G7 ministers also admitted that growth prospects for the world economy had deteriorated, voicing concern about Russia's economic plight and agreeing to keep a closer check on flows of capital to avoid future financial crises. They said: "Financial market conditions have worsened in some regions and the outlook for global economic growth is some, what less favourable. The impact of financial crises is now felt beyond the regions where the crises occurred."

Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, said the outlook for the US economy was good, but that Japan and, especially, Europe needed to boost growth.

Outlook, page 43

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1647

#### ACROSS

- 1 Blooms reach (peak) (6)
- 5 Puzzle: frustrate (6)
- 8 Cold-meat counter (4)
- 9 Large-eyed primate, the galego (8)
- 10 Dignified, grand, and slow (7)
- 11 Tripoli's capital (5)
- 13 Overseer (11)
- 16 Calm: potent apparatus (5)
- 18 A glazed earthenware (7)
- 21 Force majeure (8)
- 22 Russ. river, mountain (range) (4)
- 23 Pithy (aphorism) (6)
- 24 Gentle preoccupied; impractical (6)

#### DOWN

- 2 He kills Hamlet (7)
- 3 Narrow part of body (for some) (5)
- 4 Coarse banter (8)
- 5 Centre of operations: ignoble (4)
- 6 Feverish (7)
- 7 Hall; pressure group (5)
- 12 Crewless; bereft of courage (8)
- 14 Shrine visitor (7)
- 15 Read sonorously (7)
- 17 A ruin: irritation (in side) (5)
- 19 (Mus.) exercise piece (5)
- 20 Plate; record (4)

#### SOLUTION TO NO 1646

- ACROSS: 7 Construction 9 Peasant 10 Relic 11 Room  
12 Great auk 15 Postlude 17 Nana 19 Filter 21 Peacock  
22 Take for a ride  
DOWN: 1 Nowadays 2 Essay 3 Writer 4 Accrual 5 Rill  
6 Knick-knacks 8 Appropriate 13 Anaconda 14 Clarify  
16 Deport 18 Fairy 20 Luke

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## Versace heiress intends to revive flotation plan

FROM FRASER NELSON IN FRANKFURT

DONATELLA Versace, who inherited the Versace fashion house from her late brother Gianni, intends to take the company public in a £1 billion stock market flotation.

Ms Versace, who jointly runs the company with her brother Santo, said yesterday that she would revive Gianni's plan to float Versace, without ceding family control.

Versace's original plans for a float were scrapped when Gianni was murdered 19 months ago.

Speaking at the launch of Versace's new tableware range in Frankfurt yesterday, Ms Versace said: "We were thinking about a flotation two years ago. Now I am in favour of a flotation, but in time. I am very pro the idea of Versace becoming a public company."

She said she was undeterred by the plight of Gucci, her Amsterdam-listed rival, which is fighting what it believes to be a creeping takeover by Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH.



Versace: no ceding control

"I would float a small part only. I am not in favour of putting the whole company on the market," she said.

City analysts who had gathered in Frankfurt for the Ambiente crystal and china trade fair said Ms Versace could expect the company to be valued at about three times its annual sales. But they do not expect a float until two or three years' time.

One said: "Investors are always looking for what they see as an external reward but the luxury goods sector is wary of large family ownerships. The Versace family would have to reduce their holding for the float to be a success."

Ms Versace was the guest of Tony O'Reilly, the Irish media magnate who last night hosted a party in Frankfurt to present her with the inaugural Rosenthal award for outstanding achievements in design. Mr O'Reilly is chairman of Waterford Wedgwood, which owns Rosenthal and produces Versace's tableware range.

## Review to prepare Liffe for the market

By MARTIN WALLER

LIFFE, the London financial futures market, could be floated on the stock market within three years, Brian Williamson, the chairman, believes. If an extraordinary meeting on Thursday agrees to bring in external investors to the exchange.

Mr Williamson is conducting a review of future options for Liffe, which includes various possible alliances and mergers, he says in his first newspaper interview since taking office last August.

But the eventual aim remains a flotation, and the

exchange has taken on Schroders, the merchant bank, to advise on the restructuring needed to achieve this.

"It's difficult to get there in one go," Mr Williamson said. "You have to have a board that looks like a shareholders' board rather than a members' one." He said flotation would take at least two years to achieve but would produce the sort of business culture that he is looking for. "You should always be thinking about shareholder value."

Prosperous Life, page 46

## Consumers gain more confidence

BRITISH consumers are continuing to recover from their winter loss of confidence as interest rates fall. Confidence in their personal financial prospects has hit an all-time high, according to the latest survey for the European Commission by GfK (Janet Bush writes).

This month's survey shows that overall confidence rose to minus 1 from minus 3 in January and a trough last autumn of minus 9. GfK said that the 0.5 per cent cut in base rates earlier this month undoubtedly contributed to the recovery.

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